

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission re Inquiry Into End OF Life Choices.

From: John Clark

Sent: Friday, 20 October 2017 4:06 PM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Submission re Inquiry Into End OF Life Choices.

I am doing this submission on behalf of myself and my wife who has severe rheumatoid and osteoarthritis and cannot do this submission herself due to crippled hands, due to the diseases mentioned.

The terms of reference a). The Committee will be able to answered by persons that are involved in the areas of practises currently utilised within the medical community to assist persons to exercise the way they wish to manage treatment for their end of life. I would add that palliative care does not remove continuous severe pain,as the only time this happens is when you are comatose or sedated to the extent that you are are not aware of the anything anyway, is this living?

Term of reference b). The Committee are the persons who have access to all available information, including what is happening in Victoria Australia re the matter on euthanasia. This was voted on in parliament 20/10/17 and passed at 47 votes to 32 for the euthanasia bill to be passed to the parliament upper house, for further determination.

Term of reference c). The Committee members will have access to all the information on legislative changes and federal law as it follows that their will be changes, as per Victoria's changes in regard to end of life choices.

Term of reference d). The Committee will be in the position to access to all the available information re Advance Health Directives, Enduring Power Of Attorney and Power Of Guardianship laws.

I would now like to tell the Committee what it is really like coping with an incurable terminal disease with my wife and I as her carer both 81 years old.

When we are both up in the morning we give each other a hug and Joy says to me every morning "why can,t I have just one day pain free", but she knows that she can,t and just has to cope best she can on Oxynorm, MS Contin, Lyrica and Panadol in varying amounts and time the medications are taken.

Joy sees her doctor weekly for pain killer scripts and her rheumatoid specialist every 6 months who sincerely apologises and says he is sorry he cannot do more for Joy. We asked if we could see the specialist every 3 months, but he said he would like to but has not got the time available, as he sees so many people in the Peel region. I make notes on a white board on the pantry door re when Joy has taken the Oxynorm as this is critical time wise.

Finally I would like to say that if you had a pet animal that you new was suffering in pain continually with a terminal prognosis you would as a loving pet owner make arrangement with the local vet to euthanasia your pet. The same end of life option is not available for human beings in West Australia to say "end it all", does that still make us caring humans, when not even our relatives can say please "end it all"on our behalf, even if the wish was legally noted prior,e.g Statuary Declaration.

We thank the Committee for their consideration. Joy and John Clark