

Attention: Principal Research Officer  
 Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices  
 Legislative Assembly  
 Parliament House  
 PERTH WA 6000



## **In Support of Assisted Dying Legislation**

16 October 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
 Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms Sanderson,

I am writing in support of any laws that will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in WA.

I have personal experience of my mother dying in a state of intense and unwanted suffering. She was in Scotland and I went back several times to be with her. It was horrific and her suffering was completely futile. The oldest of five siblings, she was the last one to pass and for two years had lost the will to live. She was very clear that she'd had enough and wanted to die but her body would not cooperate. At age 96 she had become blind, was unable to walk, had lost her sense of taste and smell, and could not digest solid food. Her skin was cold and wet with bubbles of fluid seeping through and down her legs. My mum was in misery and unrecognisable compared to the kind, vibrant and cheerful person she had been throughout her life.

Having witnessed my mum's suffering, I want the right to determine how and when my life is to end if I am suffering unbearably without the prospect of improvement, or if I have to depend on others for even the most basic care leaving me without dignity. Suitable palliative care is a desideratum; however I should be able to get medical help for a peaceful death, as long as I am competent and have been informed of alternatives. A good death should be peaceful, quick, painless and at a place of my choosing.

Thank you for considering my submission. I am available for a personal appearance before your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Robert M Semple

