

SUBMISSION

Russell Ring

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

The Joint Select Committee  
On End of Life Choices  
Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace  
West Perth WA 6005



Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION to the enquiry into the need for WA laws to allow citizens to make informed choices for end of Life

A little over six years ago my father was diagnosed with dementia. His deterioration was so rapid that it took most of us by surprise. From being unable to control his bodily functions to losing his ability of movement, speech and finally swallowing. He was admitted into a nursing home for the last 4 years of his life (he passed away in June 2016) and the care he received there was something that we could not provide and are most grateful for. He was well looked after and the only thing that could have helped with the quality of care was more staff at the home he was in.

I do not believe that the current laws need to be improved for citizens to make informed choices to end their lives; rather I would urge the committee to recommend changes in relation to greater funding for the provision of care for our older citizens.

For us as a family, we grew closer because we all had to learn to help in so many ways. The grandchildren learned to help more when Dad, Mum and in fact many older people in our extended family and the community needed assistance and this was not something that came naturally to them.

I believe we have a greater appreciation of life especially when we can give more of our time, our assistance and our care. I would urge the committee to consider other ways in which the larger community can contribute to care for our older citizens, many of whom pass away because they do not have something to look forward to, when they wake up in the morning.

Yours faithfully

Russell Ring