

Kim Dodwell

10 October 2017

Principal Research Officer
 Joint Selection Committee on End of Life Choices
 Legislative Assembly
 Parliament House
 Perth WA 6000



Dear Principal Research Officer

I am writing in regards to Euthanasia and End of Life Choices in Western Australia. I would like to voice my serious concerns and ask that euthanasia would remain prohibited and the idea abandoned in our wonderful state of Western Australia.

Every doctor swears a 2000 year old oath, the Hippocratic oath, to save the lives of their patients to the best of their ability and judgement. The AMA position on patients who are dying clearly requires that all effort is made to ensure people are as comfortable and as dignified as possible during their final days before death. No-where have doctors taken an oath to assist people to end their lives, but to 'never cause injury or wrongdoing' or 'administer poison or anything harmful to any person', or even suggest to another that it be done. The medical association, those who are trained in the care of our health and wellbeing disagree with assisted suicide. Their promise is to save lives as far as is possible.

Logically, the question then turns to what will become of quality palliative care in the future if the focus turns to ending life rather than honouring a person's life? Will people who do not wish to end their own life have access to high quality care and the honour they deserve without being made to feel a burden to society if this law is changed in our state? How will the medical profession seek funding for such patients when the law states they can just be put to death?

I would also like to draw your attention to Belgium, who has not only legalised euthanasia, but very quickly sanctioned the legal death of mentally ill patients. Are we returning to the dark ages or to Nazi like ethnic cleansing? I am wondering if you have a family member or friend who is mentally ill, and would be happy for them to be killed so as not to burden society any further? Belgium have also horrifically lifted age restrictions entirely and have now seen the first of their children die by assisted death. Surely we have no desire to follow them. I and my family and friends certainly do not.

Please preserve the value, dignity, respect and honour of each person's life, whether ill or well, old or young, and reject this notion in our state.

Yours Sincerely

Kim Dodwell