

Legislative Assembly Committee Officer,
 Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace,
 West Perth, WA 6005.

9 October 2017.



Revised submission: my earlier submission dated 2 October 2017 omitted to refer to the particular term of reference, hence the re-submission.

Dear Sirs, **this submission addresses the first term of reference of the committee: a) the assessment of practices currently utilised.**

I have an aged mother living at home. She is turning 98 this month. As with many old people, who already have a sense that they are a burden to society, she is very sensitive to pressure from those around her who reinforce this feeling. I have seen some close relatives joke with her that she should take a pill and that would be the end of that, i.e that she should put an end to her life. This is in a family that by and large values the old and takes care of them.

This is one of the results of the euthanasia mentality that now pervades this society. The old are made to feel unwanted, and in families where they are not loved and valued, they are pushed into a sense of despair that leads them not to value their own existence. Add to that some illness or seemingly insurmountable problem, and they become a disposable commodity, in a society that shows them no love, but rather a deep form of hatred that not only tolerates but in some cases encourages them to want to end their own life.

Such a society is nothing less than inhuman, devoid of love. This road does not end with euthanasia in “hard cases” only, which is “supposed” to be a good thing, but abuse in all sorts of unforeseen circumstances where inheritance, dislikes, family disputes, financial constraints, etc take centre stage and euthanasia is then used for nefarious ends, which (blind) legislators never foresaw, but for which they themselves are ultimately fully morally responsible, as accessories to crime.

I hope that you will reject the idea that this country go down the euthanasia path and consign many old and defenceless people to assisted suicide and encourage many others to effectively murder them.

Consequently, I believe that the current legislation is sufficient to deal with end of life issues, with the proviso that the focus on palliative care should be greater in order to reduce unnecessary suffering.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Regnard.