

Mrs. Anna C. Cook



The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,
Level 1,
11 Harvest Terrace,
West Perth,
W.A. 6005

SUBMISSION to the inquiry into the need for W.A. laws to allow citizens to make informed choices for end of life.

Dear Sirs,

I respectfully request that in your deliberations you, as a committee, reject any changes to legislation which would legalise suicide or doctor assisted suicide. Any such change would radically alter forever the special relationship of trust which exists between doctors and their patients. Similarly, any such change would gravely undermine efforts to redress the high rates of youth suicide recently reported in our press.

I simply do not believe it is possible to have adequate protection in place if such legislation were to be introduced. Take the case of abortion legislation, introduced for cases of rape or incest and now available up to nine months of pregnancy to end the life of a perfectly healthy individual.

Please consider legislating instead for adequate palliative care for all the dying who require it, particularly with reference to training in that type of care for all medical students and doctors. Contrary to the claim of euthanasia advocates, palliative care does relieve all suffering when adequately understood and applied. In those rare cases where people suffer intractable pain, continuous deep sedation is used and most certainly should be used. Doctors themselves, according to the AMA Position Statement 2016 do not support euthanasia but rather advocate for palliative care.

I request that you consider making provision for end of life palliative care for all who require such care.

I do not believe correct supervision of euthanasia is humanly possible.

I know that in Oregon USA where euthanasia has been legal for 20 years, under that state's "Death With Dignity" Act, operative since 1998, people can receive euthanasia pills through the post, delivered to their homes costing their medical insurance providers \$100 or so. At the same time, some such providers refuse to fund treatments which could possibly effect cures, or at least extend comfortable life for months or even years. The refusal of funding is cost based.

I urge you not to do anything which could lead to such heartless treatment of WA citizens.

Yours Sincerely,

Anna C Cook.

17 – 10 – 2017.