

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: No euthanasia legislation can be adequately safeguarded

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From:

Sent: Thursday, 19 October 2017 11:56 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: No euthanasia legislation can be adequately safeguarded

My submission to the End-of-Life Choices Inquiry:

I urge you not to recommend legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide in Western Australia.

No matter what safeguards are put in place, no euthanasia or assisted suicide law is ever safe from abuse. In time, as international experience has shown, the financial and social pressures to shorten life prove far too great; and the safeguards built into the legislation prove far too little to stop wide-scale coerced, and in some cases, involuntary killing. Consider the testimony of Dutch Professor Theo Boer, once an advocate for the Dutch euthanasia laws and a member of the evaluation committees, who recently told the British Press, "I was wrong! Don't go there!"

And Ethicist Wesley Smith explains that this outcome is inevitable: "The carefully shaded moral distinctions in which the health-care intelligentsia and policymakers take so much pride are of little actual consequence in the real world of cost-controlled medical practice, in busy hospital settings, and among families suffering the emotional trauma and bearing the financial costs of caring for a severely brain-damaged relative. Once killing is seen as an appropriate answer in a few cases, the ground quickly gives way, and it becomes the answer in many cases."

When euthanasia is legalised, those dying have little real power to resist it and their real end of life choices are greatly diminished. Please consider these dangers and recommend Western Australia does not legalise euthanasia.

Yours sincerely,

Moiria Kirkwood