

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Enquiry into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices
regarding their own end of life choices.

Submitted by:
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Private Citizen



MY POSITION AND STATEMENT

- 1) I believe the current Western Australian laws on Advanced Health Directives and Enduring Power of Guardianship provide sufficient provision for citizens to make informed choices about their end of life options.
- 2) I do not support changing State laws to provide for voluntary euthanasia or physician assisted dying.

REASONING AND BACKGROUND

- 1) I have been present for my brother's and mother's death recently and seen palliative care in its best form.
- 2) I do not support euthanasia and physician assisted dying as they are currently promoted because this is not a way to address a difficult and complicated problem regarding suffering and end of life matters. There are significant risks associated with this change.
- 3) My knowledge of countries and states where assisted dying has been introduced indicated significant additional risks to the community. It has not been, in my view, successful.
- 4) Similar to mistakes made with capital punishment, there will be mistakes made with euthanasia, even if there are two physicians to decide.
- 5) Palliative care, properly managed, is a far better way to care for the less able within our society. It empowers our society and does not denigrate it as euthanasia does.
- 6) I believe we need to protect the chronically and mentally ill, together with those less able, in our society. Having the ability to euthanise them is not part of this care.
- 7) At the same time, I would strongly encourage more recognition and funding be applied to palliative care.

I'm happy to present my position to the committee if so required.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL D PERROTT AM

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