

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Euthanasia should not be legalised

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From:

Sent: Saturday, 14 October 2017 4:08 PM

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

Subject: Euthanasia should not be legalised

Please find below my submission to the committee.

It is my belief that euthanasia or assisted suicide should not be legalised in Western Australia, and I therefore ask the committee inquiring into end-of-life choices to recommend accordingly.

The experience of other countries, such as Belgium and Holland, should serve as a warning for us. In these countries, euthanasia began only for the terminally ill, those in severe pain, and who were competent, who consented, and with many other supposed safeguards. But subsequent history has shown that voluntary euthanasia quickly degenerates into involuntary and nonvoluntary euthanasia for all. Belgium, for example, has allowed euthanasia for children, and paediatricians in the Netherlands are now suggesting following suit. And in these cases, of course, the decision for euthanasia is made by doctors and parents, without needing the consent of the child.

If legalised in Western Australia, I am convinced that the spread of euthanasia would play-out no differently. Even with stringent safeguards, once voluntary euthanasia is legalised the descent down the slippery slope is inevitable. Indeed, Australia's most candid euthanasia proponent, Dr Nitschke, is on the record as saying that suicide assistance 'should be available to anyone who wants it, including the depressed, the elderly bereaved [and] the troubled teen.'

Please protect the vulnerable and maximise their real choices at the end of their lives by recommending that euthanasia and assisted suicide remain strictly illegal in Western Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Mattner