



Submission to Joint Select Committee on end of life choices.

Inquiring into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices regarding their own end of life choices.

Submitted by (Mrs) Ellen Gillette Leemburgers

General Position.

The existing laws of the State already allow citizens to make choices about end of life options, so I do not think it necessary, or wise, to make any changes.

I do not support changing State laws to allow voluntary euthanasia or physician assisted dying.

Reasoning.

- ✓ In the Netherlands, the original model of medically assisted death was strictly regulated and limited to adults who were suffering unbearable pain and who were able

to make an informed and free request to die. Now the law has been extended to include other classes of people so as to avoid discrimination. Thus the practice of euthanasia now includes the unconscious, disabled babies, children, people with dementia and psychiatric illnesses. These people are incapable of giving informed consent.

2. If the Western Australian State Parliament relaxes the law on total prohibition of euthanasia and physician assisted dying, the situation experienced by the Netherlands would inevitably be repeated here, as discrimination is unacceptable in W.A. Those incapable of making informed decisions, the unconscious, disabled babies, children, people with dementia and psychological diseases will be at great risk of being intentionally killed by another! By definition and in reality, this is no less than murder.

Date
7/10/17