

Attention: Principal Research Officer
 Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
 Legislative Assembly
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6000



20th October 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
 Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms Sanderson,

I am writing in support of any laws that will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in WA.

I have personal experience of how a family member died in a state of intense and unwanted suffering and at the hands of Palliation in WA. It was not their decision to die alone without us by their side. It was horrific and the suffering was completely unnecessary. A life taken at the early stages of their death, was also not their decision. Along with the deceit and trickery to get them to this stage was in my view, totally unnecessary and was totally unexceptable for both family members and the person in question. It is not fair on staff members or on doctors alike. The aftermath of preventable anguish caused by such action is unspeakably secretive and devious, leaving individuals questioning the government's true intent.

Reliable, legal and peaceful methods to end one's life are not readily available to the older generation who may want to avoid a continuing decline in health and dignity. It then becomes a matter of luck as to whether someone succeeds or ends up the worse for trying. It must be an individual's personal choice to escape a painful and unbearable life without any perceived dignity. A doctor's assistance would help ensure a peaceful death.

Ultimately, I want to have the right to determine how and when my life is to end, if I were terminally ill, suffering unbearably without the prospect of improvement or if I had to depend on others for even the most basic care. Suitable palliative care should be available to all who want it. However, I should also be able to get medical help for a peaceful death, as long as I am competent and have been informed of alternatives. A good death should be at a place of my choice, peacefully, and with family or friends around and not alone.

On a Daily basis one may believe I live with this memory quite peacefully and it has become part of my life but most certainly one that I would never have chosen. My life has taken a different course and I along with many I know appreciate this opportunity to speak up for the first time with rationale and passion for the cause for National Euthenasia.

Any such assistance would also be right at the very end of life and when someone has already been in great and unrelieved pain for some time. Doctors will not and cannot help when a person has a chronic condition which makes life unbearable, such as a neurological illness. If someone wants to end her/his life under those conditions (voluntary euthanasia or VE), then the act would have to be carried out while the individual was still able to do it of his/her own volition

Thank you for considering my submission. [I am not available for a personal appearance before your Committee.]

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Chevin