

Attention: Dr Jeannine Purdy
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House, PERTH WA 6000

SUBMISSION to the 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 Kathryn Crees, private citizen

General position

- 1 I believe that current Western Australian laws on Advance Health Directives and Enduring Power of Guardianship make 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.
- 3 I would support WA Laws to allow more government funding to palliative care.

I would not like to see any changes to current laws on end of life options to allow Physician Assisted Dying or voluntary euthanasia. There is no safe way to legislate government authorised killing. We should not make laws that allow us to kill one another. This has always been condemned in our society at every level and for good reason. Human life cannot be made disposable.

We are a better society if, rather than saying the suffering of a person's life is too great and should be euthanized, we should care for those who suffer painful terminal illness with compassion and tenderness. Every effort should be made to relieve the suffering of citizens who are terminally ill or dying which is why we should increase funding to palliative care.

Allowing Physician Assisted Dying (PAD) will put other vulnerable people at risk, including the unconscious, disabled babies and children, people with dementia and psychiatric illnesses, many of whom cannot provide informed consent. This breach of using PAD on other categories of vulnerable citizens has happened in countries where PAD has already been introduced.

The only way to protect all Australians in the last stages of life is to never make lawful euthanasia or "assisted dying".

Kathryn Crees

Date 19/10/2017