

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From:

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 2:00 PM

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

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Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your committee on end of life choices. My name is Jim VanderPlas, of Christian conviction and a Physiotherapist by profession. I am strongly opposed to granting individuals the right to self terminate their lives.

I consider that it is socially inconsistent to mobilise society against the scourge of suicide, often due to alleged mental health issues, on the one hand, and then then to allow it for physical health/ageing issues on the other hand. This is totally unprincipled and contradictory.

As I write, the fallout of the Victorian State Parliament lower house decision to pass their euthanasia bill, is occurring. Two past Prime Ministers of opposite political persuasions have amply stated the case against proceeding with this type of legislation. They alert to reasons why people of both religious and non religious backgrounds should be very concerned about the consequences of these laws. They can be misused.

Upper house support in Victoria is justifiably crumbling as house members stand at the social precipice and look over the proverbial cliff. They have just cause to pause and re-consider all the ramifications. The right to live is a basic God given human right, a right that should be legally enshrined and not one that may be legally taken from one individual by another.

Fundamentally though, my concern is that is goes against the will of what God has revealed in the Bible, namely, that, that human life is to be protected and promoted, because He has given it. Therefore, no individual has the right to end the life of another individual, or to assist or promote that process. It will lead to adverse social consequences and arbitrary decision making.

I request the committee to do everything within its defined parameters to prevent euthanasia laws from being proposed in WA, and ensure that the provision of palliative care be supported and enhanced.

My family and I will pray to God that He may give you as committee members the insights you need to guide our beautiful state of WA in the important role you all have in formulating laws that are good and wise. If we honour God, He will bless us.

Yours faithfully,
Jim VanderPlas



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