



Mrs Lucy Devitt

17 October 2017

**The Joint Selection Committee on End of Life Choices**

**Legislative Assembly Committee Office**

Level 1, Harvest Tce

West Perth, WA 6005

Dear Sirs/Madams,

This is a submission to the Inquiry into why WA laws are needed to allow citizens to make informed choices for end of life.

**I believe:**

The existing laws should not be changed to allow euthanasia as they already provide good options for people at end-of-life. I also believe, however, that there is room for legislative changes which allow greater funding and publicity for palliative care facilities.

**My reasons:**

I have worked in a WA palliative care facility and believe that terminal care in such facilities meets the needs of those at end-of-life, allowing them to die with dignity and peace. I am very concerned that The Parliament of Western Australia is willing to even consider legalising euthanasia, given the good model already in place, as well as the inevitable dangers euthanasia presents. These dangers include, but are not limited to:

- Abuse of the system, which has happened in overseas countries where euthanasia has been introduced (for example targeting the sick, disabled, and the aged)
- The weakening of the case for suicide prevention in Australia (by blurring the line between suicide and 'assisted dying')

Regarding the third Term of Reference – what type of legislative change may be required – I believe only legislation promoting greater support for current palliative care facilities, and education of Australians about current end-of-life care should be considered.

I wish to appear before the committee to present my case.

Yours Sincerely,

Lucy Devitt