

**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**

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General Position

For citizens to make informed choices about the end of life, we are conscious that current laws do need improvement in order that all citizens may make informed choices. Our concern is related to pressures under which the Joint Select Committee may be placed to recommend change/s in favour of physician assisted dying and/or euthanasia.

Responding to Terms of Reference # 1: Both Physician Assisted Dying and Euthanasia carry substantial risks. Should voluntary suicide be legalised, to continue living becomes a choice that people will have to justify to themselves, their family and society. In this context, legalising euthanasia would diminish individual autonomy, not enhance it, if we consider all citizens and in particular the most vulnerable persons in society.

We request that the Joint Select Committee recommend to the Government that more funding is granted for improving Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care. The role of Palliative Care is to relieve pain and suffering and to care for patients with compassion until their passing.

Date: 18th October 2017