

22 October 2017

The Principle Research Officer on End of Life Choices  
Legislative Assembly  
4 Harvest Terrace  
West Perth WA 6004

**Submission in Support of Voluntary Assisted Deaths in Western Australia**

My father died of Mesothelioma in Melbourne some years ago. I live in Perth, so there was some distance between us.

In the final stages of his illness, my father was in dreadful pain and would voice this to me on the telephone and say that he wished he could end it now, because he was not living he was just in excruciating pain. Unfortunately palliative care did not work for my dad because he was allergic to both Pethidine and Morphine and whatever else they tried to give him to ease his suffering did not work.

If my father had had a choice to end his suffering peacefully with support from trained doctors in a legal and safe manner it would have been a much nicer ending for him, with family and friends by his side if he so wished. Even if he did not choose to take the option of an assisted death it would have given him comfort to know he had the option.

It is for people like my dad, where palliative care does not see them through to a peaceful end, that I support a change in the law to allow terminally ill patients a choice at the end of their life. A choice to be assisted to die peacefully.

Kind regards,

Mark Cox