

22/10/2017

Dear committee members,

We wish to express our deep concern about the proposed legislation before the WA Parliament on end of life choices.

Overseas experience shows that there are no safeguards to make euthanasia safe.

In countries where it has been legalised:

\* Elderly talk of being a burden to their families, reflecting the pressure they feel to end their lives.

<http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2015/07/pressure-on-patients-is-cause-for-concern-euthanasia-expert/>

\* In Belgium it is now commonplace to euthanase the mentally ill and now children are in the frame.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/europes-morality-crisis-euthanizing-the-mentally-ill/2016/10/19/c75faaca-961c-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c942d4b919c9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/europes-morality-crisis-euthanizing-the-mentally-ill/2016/10/19/c75faaca-961c-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html?utm_term=.c942d4b919c9)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/17/terminally-ill-child-becomes-first-euthanised-minor-in-belgium/>

Further, Australia's peak medical body, the Australian Medical Association, remains opposed.

<https://ama.com.au/system/tdf/documents/AMA%20Position%20Statement%20on%20Euthanasia%20and%20Physician%20Assisted%20Suicide%202016.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=45402>

Rather than introduce assisted dying, we implore the committee to focus on efforts to further improve and make more readily available quality palliative care to all in our great State.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin and Jenny Box