

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

**From:** Dwayne Ballast

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 October 2017 8:05 PM

**To:** Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <[eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

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

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my submission.

My name is Dwayne Ballast. My wife and I have a healthy baby son. I come from a family where my younger brother was born with 13-Q Syndrome. A very rare disorder, he could not see, hear or interact with us in any way. Not expected to live after birth, he lived on this earth for 6.5 years before being taken away. Whilst some would say he had a condition not 'compatible with life' he lived a life and gave back to our lives in ways we as family only begin to understand some 10 years later. The lessons we learn to care for another without expecting to receive back, to put someone else's needs before your own and to give up personal interests to care for others has provided growth, love, maturity and unit within our family and wider community. There is not 1 family member that looks back in hindsight and does not acknowledge how much he actually gave to us.

For these reasons we are opposed to euthanasia. Not only does it go against the Judeo-Christian principles that established this great nation of ours, it also robs fellow citizens of valuable life lessons. Euthanasia may be an easier option for certain people in certain conditions, but it certainly is not the better option. No matter what the condition, the people in these positions provide opportunities for others in the wider community to serve another, show compassion, extend a helping hand and to put another before yourself. People with terminal illnesses serve our community by pricking our conscience, pointing out our selfishness and reminding us of our humanity. They are not an expense, they are an investment in the healthy morals and integrity of society. Legalising euthanasia takes these opportunities away, puts people in these conditions at risk of abuse and miss-treatment as opposed to a perceived 'better treatment'.

On top of that, with the types of palliative care and pain management now available, euthanasia is in no way necessary. The pain and struggles of one is the strength for another. Taking that way takes away the commune in community.

This is why I recommend to the committee that they do everything in its power to prevent legalised euthanasia, and rather ensuring appropriate palliative care is available for people so they do not feel the need to end their life.

Wishing you all the strength, wisdom and insight required in this critically important decision you must make,

Yours sincerely,

Dwayne and Klazine Ballast