

To the Chair and Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

As a resident of Western Australia, I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of assisted suicide and/or euthanasia becoming legalised in our state.

The reality is that physician assisted death is both unnecessary, and unsafe.

So called safeguards do not work.

Safeguards are an illusion as shown by the increasing body of evidence from overseas of disregard and work arounds people adopt.

It is self evident that the elderly and most vulnerable will be coerced by the unscrupulous however subtly into suicide (as they are currently do in regards to money, property etc).

Many elderly, disabled and chronically ill people already feel they are a 'burden' on their family and marginalised by society.

Palliative Care is making great progress in the care of those at end of life. With good palliative care, pain and other symptoms can be effectively managed.

This is the area that should be pursued, developed and encouraged.

The value and dignity of people at all stages of life should be affirmed.

Once you let the genie out of the box, it is very hard to put back in and all sort of detestable modifications subsequently occur such as allowing assisted suicide for the very young - how abhorrent is that.

No case for legalising assisted suicide can be made on the basis that this is the only possible response to Australians facing unrelievable pain. Rather Australians need universal access to gold standard palliative care which can alleviate pain,

Yours sincerely,

Frank Kosaras

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