

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Mary Anne Baljic



The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Level 1, 11 Harvest Tce
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Sirs

In my opinion, the current WA laws on end of life do need improvements for all to make informed choices. However, I would not like pressure being put by this Committee or anyone else to recommend any changes in favor of assisted suicide and/or euthanasia.

First Term of Reference – five years ago my partner of 35 years was being cared for in his last stages of liver cancer treatment. Once we decided to stop the chemotherapy treatment as the tumors were increasing, he experienced 5 months of good health minus the illness associated with his past treatment. He still had very regular visits by his outstanding Doctor and daily visits from Silver Chain. His last month of life was more difficult but managed by good professional help and medication. He got to the stage that he did not want to continue his life as it was. We had a meeting with the Doctor, Silver Chain senior nurse and my partner and myself where the various ways forward were fully explained and examined. The path we took resulted in a very calm, peaceful death which I had the privilege to experience with my partner.

Our GP bulk billed all his visits even though my partner was not at pension age. Our chemotherapy specialist organized the Silver Chain for monthly visits while my partner was in reasonable health. I appreciate this is not possible for everyone especially those in remote areas but I would like to see similar care given to my partner available to all in WA.

Yours sincerely

Mary Anne Baljic
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