

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From: Ben de Vos

Sent: Thursday, 19 October 2017 10:01 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

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

Thank you for the opportunity to send this submission on the subject issue of Euthanasia.

I am a 20 year old uni student studying secondary education at ECU, I do not work in health care or have much to do with it at all, but I do have many family and friends, and just earlier this year my grandfather passed away from cancer, which was hard on the family. But we also know it wouldn't have been any easier if he had taken his own life because of it. Yes he was suffering and it was hard, as family, to see him go through it. But we knew that as long as he was here with us, we could still love him and see him. Euthanasia may seem to solve the the short term problem for the person involved, but it has wide and long term effects, reaching many people in family circles. I believe it is not the solution to the problem of people suffering with terminal illnesses.

Our country was based on Judeo-Christian principles and therefore on the bible. I still believe that what the bible says about laws and politics is very much relevant today. The bible clearly says that all murder is wrong, even for accidental murder there is a consequence and punishment. The bible also speaks against suicide, as we are not in control of our lives. It was God who brought us into this world and he will take us out when he deems suitable.

Statistics from jurisdictions where euthanasia is legal show that it is mainly sought for loss of autonomy, dignity and enjoyment in life rather than pain. And therefore the arguments that ending their life reduces the extent of the pain they suffer aren't always true.

I am concerned that if Euthanasia was to be legalised, it would have a large negative effect on society with many people, especially depressed people, will seek to use it to escape their troubles. But I don't believe it will help, it will only cause more people to become depressed and want to commit suicide because it is readily available and legal. Instead I believe that the government should put more time, effort and money into palliative care, pain management, cancer prevention and mental health counselling programs to help reduce peoples suffering and reduce the causes of illness.

I recommend that you do all that you can in your power to prevent legalisation of euthanasia and instead support palliative care so that people do not feel the need to end their life.

Your sincerely
Benjamin de Vos