

23 October 2017

Attention: Principal Research Officer
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Per: eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au

SUBMISSION ON: Inquiry into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices

I wish to make a personal submission in relation to the broader question that the Select Committee is inquiring into; namely "whether there is a need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices".

My submission is based on my experience through the death of both my parents and my husband's parents. It is also informed by my faith.

I make the following submission on the basis of personal experiences of family members' end of life, in the following order:

- My own Father died 30 years ago from cancer with only a few short months from diagnosis to death. I was living interstate at the time, and (after travelling home) was only able to spend a very brief time with him as he died.
- My Mother died of a heart attack without notice and I was unable to be with her.
- My Mother-in-law died after an extended period of deterioration and ill-health including dementia. She was well-served with palliative care in her aged care facility, and I (and our family) valued the opportunity to spend time with her prior to and during that period of care. As hard as it was for my Father-in-law to see his beloved gradually slipping away, he knew it was important to be with her during that time. My husband and family likewise. And I know she treasured the family visits greatly during that time also.
- My Father-in-law died after a few months of ill health with failing heart and lungs. He also was well-served with palliative care in the aged care facility, and I (and my husband and others of our family) valued the opportunity to spend time with him prior to and during that period of final care. And I know he was deeply appreciative of the family's support during his final days and hours.

I believe that euthanasia, by whatever name, is inherently morally wrong. It also robs both sufferers and their families of the kinds of valuable shared times and memories that I have mentioned above.

Any additional health resources should be directed towards improving the availability, affordability and effectiveness of palliative care.

I respectfully make this submission for consideration by the Committee.

Yours sincerely