

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



13 October 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
 Chair of the Joint Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms Sanderson

I am writing in support of any laws that will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in Western Australia. Some of us are lucky enough to have a doctor who will assist us to die but it will not be at the time of our choosing and the doctor will technically be acting outside the law. This is unfair on the doctor but also to those who do not have a supportive medico.

Reliable, legal and peaceful methods to end one's life are not available to the older generation some of whom may want to avoid a continuing decline in health and dignity. Similarly those with chronic pain cannot be assisted even if it continues for years and the patient has no quality of life. It is not only those who are close to death who can need an end to their suffering. It helps no one to prevent these men and women choosing the time of their death. There is no reason why the State should be involved and a doctor's assistance would help ensure them a peaceful death.

I want the right to determine how and when my life is to end. Of course suitable palliative care should be available to all who want it just as I should be able to have medical help for a peaceful death at the time of my choosing as long as I am competent and have been well informed of my options. I see no reason why a good death should not be at a place of my choice, peacefully with family and friends around me and at the time of my choice.

I would be grateful if the Committee would consider why the State and not me should have the determination of when and how I die. Suitable protections are included in most Acts but the need for such protections rarely prevents the introduction of legislation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours Sincerely

Lois Anderson