

Eugenia Willock



3rd October 2017
 Legislative Assembly Committee Office
 Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace
 WEST PERTH WA 6005

SUBMISSION to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

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

I generally support the Terms of Reference regarding the above inquiry. A careful **review** and any improvements that may follow to enhance the right of people to die with the utmost dignity thus enabling them to feel supported, loved and cared for to the end, is **welcome**.

However, I **do not support** the inclusion of assisted dying i.e. **euthanasia and doctor assisted suicide**.

I am particularly concerned about the fact that if approved by law

- A person would be given permission to **kill** another person.
- The **law**, as with most laws, would be **open to abuse** and should not be part of any legislation in a moral society that should be upholding the value of life.

For many, many years now we have already had in place treatment by doctors for patients suffering severe pain/discomfort in their last days. I have witnessed this with family and friends who have been in palliative care.

The rate of youth suicide is such a growing tragedy that we are aiming to reduce so **why** would we **approve euthanasia/assisted suicide**. What message are we giving them?

So many have died in horrific circumstances without the availability of any comfort or care i.e. soldiers on the battlefield, those in the concentration camps of WW2, the victims of cruel regimes of dictators purging their people, extremists wreaking havoc – the list could go on. What choices did they have and who was there to help when they died?

As we near death in difficult circumstances, I feel we need to be grateful for all that we already have available to us here in Western Australia so I ask you to please consider carefully all the options that come before your committee and the decisions you may wish to set in stone.

Yours sincerely,

Eugenia Willock
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