

Attention: Principal Research Officer  
Joint Select Committee on end of life Choices.  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



4th October, 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
Chair of Joint Select 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 WA. I have personal experience of having 3 elderly family members in their late 80's living in a "just existing state" for years with no quality of life.

If we're lucky, we have a doctor now who may assist us to die but the timing would be solely at the doctor's discretion and the doctor would technically be breaking the law.

Any such assistance would also be right at the very end of life and when someone has already been in unrelieved pain for some time. Doctors will not and cannot help when a person has a chronic condition which makes life unbearable. If someone wants to end their life under those conditions (voluntary euthanasia) then the act would have to be carried out while that person was still able to do it of their own volition.

Ultimately, I want to have the right to determine how and when my life is to end, if I were terminally ill, suffering unbearably without the prospect of improvement, or if I had to depend on others for even the most basic care. Suitable palliative care should be available to all who want it. However, I should also be able to get medical help for a peaceful death as long as I am competent and have been informed of alternatives. A good death should be at a place of my choice, peacefully, and with family or friends around.

Thank you for considering my submission. I am available for a personal appearance before your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Foulkes-Taylor