

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



11<sup>th</sup> 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 W.A.

For whatever reason legislators and their supporters choose, apparently the people of W.A. are not capable enough to know when they want to end the life they live on this earth. They are capable enough to vote – to choose who will make laws for this State and for the Federal Government as well. With some oversight we can run our own businesses, drive cars, get married and have family, make informed decisions on how to invest or spend our money, what medical treatments to have when we are ill, or what further education we need to take so we can continue to earn a living for ourselves and our loved ones.

But when, after due consideration, a person decides the pain they are in, the indignity they will suffer, or the futility their own life has now become to them, these same people are deemed – what – too stupid, too irresponsible, to incapable of making that decision.

I have heard it said that if voluntary euthanasia laws are passed they will be abused by unscrupulous people to kill off their parent (or whoever). Well if the laws are properly crafted the only person whose wishes will be considered is the person who is voluntarily ending their own life. By the way, how come the voluntary bit is always over looked in this conversation!!!!

So the situation as it currently stands is that there are many elderly (and not so elderly) who are trying to work out ways for a peaceful and reliable way to end their own life – just in case they need it. If people were assured that they could have the help they require to end their life, at a time of their own choosing, then these people would be relieved of this concern. Advance Health Directive, Enduring Powers of Attorney / Guardianship only tell others what another person wants in a given situation when they cannot talk, although the Advance Health Directive does give a very good indication that a person has seriously considered what actions they would like taken when the time is right for them. Right now this is no good to the seriously ill or dying as no one can act on these decisions.

Laws to help the ill and dying are way over due and many are suffering because it suits others to interfere with a considered and well thought out end of life choice another person has made.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Foster