

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission on End of Life Choices

From: Keith Collins

Sent: Friday, 20 October 2017 7:49 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

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To the Chair and Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

Thank you for taking the time to investigate the important issues regarding end-of-life decision making. As a long term resident of Western Australia, I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of assisted suicide and/or euthanasia becoming legalised in our state. The reality is that physician assisted death is both unnecessary, and unsafe.

Palliative care providers across Australia are united in their opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide as a means of 'treatment' for chronic or terminal illness. I have personally been with both my parents whose lives ended in palliative care in QEII and the care and love was excellent and the whole family was able to be there. I have also just been at the death of a 101 year old Nun who trusted God to look after her at death and died peacefully after praying to go in a state of grace.

Nowadays families are in crises and we do not need another factor to end a person's life adding to this. I volunteer at our mental hospital ever week and see many cases of depression and mental illness. Attempted suicide is a regular occurrence every fortnight and the effort is to keep people alive until they recover from the darkness of depression. Those who live through the darkness go on to live fruitful lives. Euthanasia and assisted suicide is a dangerous option for vulnerable people. Many elderly, disabled and chronically ill people already feel they are a 'burden' on their family and marginalised by society. We need to reaffirm the value of every person to our society. Only the Giver of life has the right to take it away. So Parliament has no right to legislate the end of life issues.

This is my view and I am 67 years old.

Keith

20 October 2017

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