

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

From: Scott O'Callaghan

Sent: Sunday, 22 October 2017 10:33 PM

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

Subject: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

To the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

Submission to the inquiry into the need for WA laws to allow citizens to make informed choices for the end of life.

We are very concerned about pressures for the committee to recommend any changes in favour of euthanasia or assisted suicide. If euthanasia became legalised in Western Australia the consequences of this happening would be deeply frightening. One consequence would be that people's trust in doctors would be greatly affected. For this reason most medical associations throughout the world are against it. (<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-resolution-on-euthanasia/>)

There are many examples of people with depression, although in physical health, seeking and gaining end of life assistance from medical practitioners in states or countries which have legalised euthanasia. This is an absolute travesty because these people are really crying for psychiatric help and are in no way able to make a rational decision about assisted suicide. Yet, there are many examples of doctors assisting these people to their premature deaths and which is later shown that they should not have done so. All too late for the patient however. <http://blogs.theprovince.com/2011/12/05/province-letters-icbc-egypt-assisted-suicide-oregon-christmas-pre-marital-sex/>

Also, the sick or elderly would be made to feel that they are a burden, whether implicitly or explicitly implied, in what is often termed as elder abuse. What sort of a society makes people feel they are a burden to others when they are sick or elderly? Euthanasia should not be the answer to people feeling a burden on society. We should be showing them love and compassion, and, that we value them within our society.

Addressing the first term of reference we believe that more funding should be given to palliative care which would show patients that our society does value them and that they are not deemed to be a financial burden by government, and therefore society.

Yours respectfully,

Scott and Lynda O'Callaghan.