

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

My submission:

I am opposed to euthanasia.

Members of Hope have described how euthanasia will lead to breakdowns of health care.

Doctors will be professionally compromised. By having to give a poison to end life, or prescribe poison for this purpose is against the Hippocratic oath.

Doctors are trained to treat not to kill.

The AMA has written strongly in defence of palliative care. End of life situation requires that treatment be given to ensure dignity and comfort for the patient. There is no dignity in being given a poison. It is reported that only 2 in 100 patients have moderate to severe suffering where palliative care does not work. In this situation doctors are able to provide sedation to relieve suffering.

There is community misunderstanding of how palliative care works. The AMA has information explaining the process.

It follows that if euthanasia becomes the trend, then those with health issues become vulnerable to pressure to end their life so as not to be a burden to family or the community.

Euthanasia is a cop out for having to spend money on further developments in, and implementation of palliative care. All life is valuable at all stages; and medicine together with governments should be investing into research for palliative care.

Yours sincerely

Carol Ann Norris