

13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Select Committee on End of Life Choices  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000



Dear Members,

In conducting its inquiry your committee will no doubt hear many stories of terminally ill West Australians whose choices or end of life care were restricted by lack of knowledge as to their available options. However I would like to share with you the story of my husband who was well served by the present system.

My husband was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2010. After 18 months of various treatment including chemotherapy with lots of major setbacks, he died. He was so positive about trying to beat the cancer and always had a cheerful attitude. However it came the time when he had secondary cancers elsewhere, in severe pain and the fight became too hard, with no positive outlook. He then made the personal decision that enough was enough and told the medical staff and family who agreed with his wishes. The key to his positive engagement with existing medical system was that he was able to discuss his care options.

Because of his pain he was then given Morphine at regular intervals to help this. As a family we knew that this would be what would end his life, and was happy not to intervene. He died within 24hrs of making that decision. As a family we have never regretted going with his wishes, that was done in a controlled environment at a hospital. He was able to die in dignity with all of his family beside him and included lots of laughs. His children telling him that where he was going "The rivers were full of red wine & Italian sausages were hanging from the trees" which made him smile.

However I do not go along with Euthanasia that some people wish to set up in their home where one massive injection is given and that is the end. To me this is a coward's way out and quite often the person has still lots of time left. Just decides one day that I want to end it. We all have times when we are not feeling the best. Most chronic pain can be controlled, however there is a difference between an illness and terminal illness! We could just end it if this home style of Euthanasia is brought in. I do not believe it is ever possible to provide adequate safeguards. In addition these options send the wrong message to vulnerable community members at a time when we are trying hard to address suicide prevention.

Sincerely

Mrs Beverley Macri