

10/10/17

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



Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms Sanderson,

I wish to register my desire to see an act passed by this parliament which will legalise voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying for those suffering intolerable pain or other unbearable circumstances

I am nearly 88 and enjoyed good health until the past few years but my body is inevitably breaking down (arthritis, heart disease and possibly vulval cancer. I would enjoy my remaining years with much greater peace of mind if I knew that I could be aided to a peaceful and dignified death.

I have an advanced health directive drafted by a lawyer but this does not turn the slow euthanasia of palliative care into a swift release from pain. Doctors swear to do no harm, but refusing to end intolerable pain when the patient begs for release seems harmful to me. Many doctors would help such a patient if they were not frightened of the repercussions of breaking the law.

Polls tell us that 70% of Australians favour legalising a person's right to demand an end to suffering with adequate safeguards included. Some US states and European countries have already passed such legislation so there are existing guidelines.

70% is also the percentage of the elderly who hang themselves when they can no longer stand the lack of quality of life they are enduring and feel compelled to end it. Surely a better alternative can be found.

Yours sincerely,

(Pamela Le Page)