

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

**From:** Leo Schoof

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 October 2017 5:47 PM

**To:** Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <[eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

The opportunity to present a submission to your committee is very much appreciated.

I realise your task is not easy. In fact it will be quite demanding. I hope, therefore, that my submission will be of some help to you.

My name is Leo Schoof. I have lived in Armadale for 16 years, in Kelmscott for 35 years and have now lived in Byford on a smaller block for the last three years.

Below I will attempt to explain why I am opposed to Euthanasia:

1. Because we have excellent palliative care and pain management in this wonderful state of ours there is absolutely no need for euthanasia.

A 2005 study of terminally-ill cancer patients in the Netherlands who were euthanised found that most of them were experiencing depression and few were experiencing pain. Because it is used to 'treat' psychological suffering instead of pain in the majority of cases, euthanasia has more characteristics of suicide than of palliative care.

Palliative care already allows for dignity in death. Effective palliative care is the best way of providing compassion and dignity in death. To characterise euthanasia as 'dying with dignity' is disingenuous because in most cases, effective, high quality palliative care can reduce patients' fears and alleviate the symptoms and pain associated with the dying process. According to Professor Peter Hudson from St Vincent's centre for Palliative Care in Victoria, when quality palliative care is provided less than 1% of people desire euthanasia or assisted suicide, even in jurisdictions where it is available.

2. The relatives of the people who have been euthanised or 'killed' will never forget it and it will haunt them for the rest of their lives. Feelings of regret and guilt will be with them continually and cause them to take drastic steps such as self harm or even suicide.
3. If euthanasia is legalised the floodgates will be open and before you know it people will be demanding euthanasia for their disabled relatives because they are a so called 'burden' or an 'unwarranted cost' to society. I am personally involved with numerous disabled people and all of them are a blessing to their parents and other relatives. They take much care and the task is often overwhelming but none of these people would ever want to consider euthanasia. We have two mentally and physically disabled grandchildren and it truly is a joy to be around them. They bring joy and happiness to all around.
4. Most importantly euthanasia is a violation of the sixth commandment (Exodus 20:13). And that is extremely serious!
5. I would urge you do everything in your power to support palliative care and to oppose euthanasia.

Yours sincerely,  
Leo Schoof



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