

12<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Kathryn Coulson



To the W.A Parliament Joint Select Committee on end of life choices.

The practices currently being utilised within the medical community are I believe sensitive and appropriate for looking after the final days a person has before dying.

I believe that good palliative care is able to control physical, psychological, social, spiritual and existential suffering. In extreme cases, palliative sedation is used. It is not only already legal, but effective and therefore no need for legislation to legalise general euthanasia.

My concerns are that It is impossible to establish guidelines strict enough to limit euthanasia to persons for whom it is provided. In fact, the safeguards provided do not hold up in practice.

Legalising euthanasia could put pressures on the elderly and people with disabilities who feel they are a burden to their families and should not continue to do so and thus look at ending their lives this way. Pressures could stem from families or those around them.

As the law at present provides that every patient has the right to refuse treatment or to request that ongoing treatment be stopped this should look after those who are terminal and close to the end of their life.

Human life must be respected and appreciated that we live with joys and suffering as part of our lives.

Hopefully with all the advancement with palliative care we can alleviate most suffering and pain from those who have chronic pain and illnesses.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathryn Coulson