

19/10/2017

To the Chair and Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

As a resident of Western Australia, I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of assisted suicide and/or euthanasia becoming legalised in our state. The reality is that physician assisted death is both unnecessary, unsafe and against what God has commanded all of mankind to do.

Palliative care providers across Australia are united in their opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide as a means of 'treatment' for chronic or terminal illness. With good palliative care, pain and other symptoms can be effectively managed, so that "if you provide the right palliative care urgently, effectively and confidently, you don't have to have the sorts of deaths that proponents of this legislation are suggesting you can't avoid". I have been through this 3 times in my family and have seen our Medical Professionals provide superb palliative care. I am shocked we need to have an inquiry that seems only for people who are scared, lazy, unloving and not willing to care for loved ones in their time of need.

Euthanasia (Suicide) and assisted suicide is a dangerous option for vulnerable people. Many elderly, disabled and chronically ill people already feel they are a 'burden' on their family and marginalized by society. Rather than affirming the value of every person to our society, even presenting the legal option of physician assisted death for frail and dependent people further embeds the idea that they are 'better off dead' and their lives not worth living. There are thousands of Australians who are within the welfare industry in WA - and the mental health of these thousands is being cared for by thousands more volunteers too! These types of inquiries are certainly not in the best interests of all these people - as they will become more and more alienated from a society who preaches that they are not really worth helping at all. This leads to more drug and alcohol abuse as they try to hide from the pain of being alive in a non-caring world. The amount of drug and alcohol abuse is already at such sickening levels - that every single volunteer is staggered that Governments won't spend more on education, caring and positive attitudes - rather than Homosexuality, Suicide and Abortion.

Legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia sends a confusing message about suicide prevention. As a society, we are actively committing ourselves to reducing the tragedy of suicide – except, it seems, for those who are old and unwell. This is an inexcusable double standard.

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Instead, we need greater awareness of and resources for palliative care services, so that all people can access the medical, pastoral and spiritual care they need at the end of their life. This is the only truly humane and dignified response.

We would state that most of the people in the Medical, Welfare, and Aged Care industry would be totally against any change. Why then would you even think about going against the knowledge and wisdom of the best people in our country? Indeed, should they not be represented on your Inquiry panel?

Let alone going against the 10 Commandments that we all know?

On behalf of all the Volunteers and "Friends" and the Have-a-Cuppa Christian Outreach Centre in Armadale WA – we ask that you provide a report that finds there is no need to change the existing laws to please a minority of the public in WA.

Signed at 38 Marian Ave at 3.10pm 19/10/2017

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General Manager

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