

SUBMISSION to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Inquiring into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices, regarding their own end of life choices

Submitted by Ms Amy Harry (BSocSc), private citizen.

General Position

- 1) I believe that adherence to current Western Australian laws on end of life decisions could be even more strongly monitored in local hospitals, hospices and similar facilities.
- 2) I do not support changing State laws to provide for voluntary euthanasia or physician-assisted dying.

Reasoning

- a) I have witnessed three definite cases of expedited termination of life of elderly terminally ill friends of mine. Intentional overdose of pain medication by physician was implicated in all three cases. They all occurred at the same hospice. One of these patients was the grandmother of a close friend. My friend was extremely distressed regarding the untimely death of her grandmother. Only one case involved unanimous decision- making process involving family.
- b) I had another close friend die less than a year ago from advanced cancer. She was in a very vulnerable position financially and there are suspicions among witnesses that her high doses of pain- control medicine were administered in somewhat suspicious circumstances.
- c) If Western Australian laws on end- of- life decisions were made more permissive, I can logically conclude that such incidences listed in the above points would drastically increase.
- d) It is almost certain that decreased State responsibility for the palliative care of terminally ill citizens will occur if the jurisdiction of the State of Western Australia permits its citizens free and legal access to Physician Assisted Death. I also observe with strong interest, statistics which show an increase in other types of suicide in countries where the law permits its citizens to commit euthanasia.

Amy L Harry

23rd October, 2017