

SUBMISSION

To the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, inquiring into End of Life Choices Law Reform in Western Australia.

From:

Mrs. Julie Howe,

23rd September, 2017.



To:

The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,
Level 1,
11 Harvest Terrace,
West Perth WA 6005.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my deep concern about proposals to change the Law to introduce "Physician Assisted Dying" in Western Australia. Experience in other countries where this has been legalised has shown that it can never be safely carried out. Patients who appear to be "of sound mind" often still have a distorted understanding of their condition.

My experience of nursing my husband through his last days showed me there are adequate measures in place to manage and soften a person's passing without unbearable suffering. Palliative care and support should be common knowledge and practice among doctors, so that patients are not encouraged to end their lives to make things easier for their families and carers, based on a mistaken belief that this is what the loved ones want.

With regard to your Terms of Reference (points 1 & 3), I would like to suggest that any legal changes emphasise the need for more informative consultation between the medical profession, patients and their families regarding palliative care, rather than deliberate ending of life.

Yours Sincerely,

Julianna Howe.