

Mr Bruno J George

18th October 2017

Dr J Purdy (Research Officer)
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly Committee Office
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6004



Dear Committee Members

SUBMISSION to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices under Term of Reference Two whereby I offer current materials from another Australian State and an overseas jurisdiction:

I submit my concern to the Committee that Western Australia would be making a grave mistake in allowing any of its laws to change that would allow for euthanasia or assisted dying.

Victoria is currently debating whether or not to pass euthanasia or assisted dying into its laws. If this passes, then Victoria would create two classes of its citizens: those who should live and those who would be "better off dead".

No right-thinking person can reasonably be expected to believe that the law authorises mercy killing whilst simultaneously protecting the disabled, the mentally ill ... and ultimately any vulnerable human being. The measure of a society's civilisation is how it CARES for (not kills) its weakest members.

I submit that Western Australia is not to follow Victoria's delusion, which erroneously believes that euthanasia or assisted dying will not transform the ethics of society. All of us will ultimately have to confront our mortality, in 10 to 70 years or so. If this line is crossed, then we can only imagine the climate and culture regarding protection of life when it is our time.

As evidence that once the door opens, nothing prevents it opening wider, I submit a study presented in Montreal this week at the World Alzheimer's Day conference by Gina Bravo, an epidemiologist from the Université de Sherbrooke. At present in Quebec, Canada, it is illegal to administer a medically assisted death to patients with dementia (because their consent would not be "free and informed"). According to Bravo's study, 91% of respondents supported extending the law to patients with dementia, while 72% of respondents said they were favourable to it even in the absence of a written directive. In March this year Health Minister Gaétan Barrette convened a parliamentary commission to *accept submissions and write a report* to consider the merits of allowing patients with dementia to give "advanced consent" to medically assisted death. Quebec's Bill 52 came into effect in 2014, and 3 years later they have come to this: what will it be like in 30 years?

So, each member of this Committee has a choice. If this Committee today allows euthanasia and assisted suicide, what then might the next Committee on End of Life Choices consider? The only way to protect all classes of citizens into the future is to make sure that euthanasia and assisted dying are never made lawful.

Yours faithfully

(~~Bruce~~ George)

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