

Attention: Principal Research Officer
 Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
 Legislative Assembly
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6000

15 October 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
 Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices



Dear Ms Sanderson,

I am writing in support of any laws which will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in WA.

I also believe that the laws which make it illegal to assist in a suicide should be removed.

Older Australians who have had enough of pain, or loss of capacity, end their own lives however they can. Some of these methods are violent. Those who love them risk imprisonment if they help with more humane methods.

In my lifetime, I have seen abortion and homosexuality become legal in WA. I believe there are parallels with the current discussion about choices at the end of life:

- (1) In all three, laws have tried unsuccessfully to prevent the expression of strong human drives.
- (2) In all three, there is, or was, opposition to removing criminal penalties, often based on religious views.
- (3) In all three, terrible distress and harm have resulted from their illegality.

When abortion and homosexuality were legalised in WA there was no loss of freedom, or obligation to behave differently, for any other adult. Women who wanted to bear children were free to do so. Heterosexuals were free to love a person of the opposite sex. Their rights were not reduced or threatened by removing legal penalties for abortion and homosexuality.

It will be the same with Assisted Dying. Those who believe it is wrong will be free to die in their own way. But it is callous for them to deny a peaceful end of life to others.

I hope WA legislators will have the courage and compassion to grant a dignified and peaceful end of life to those who wish for it.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.

Celia O'Grady