

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From: Gerald den Boer

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 2:56 PM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

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Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to send in a submission re End of Life Choices. We appreciate the opportunity to let you know our point of view on the subject.

Gerald and I (Carolyn) are residents of Byford, having moved here a few months ago from Albany. We have experienced the death of loved ones to Cancer, Stroke and Alzheimers. I am involved in research relating to Early Onset Alzheimer's as we have a family history of stroke at a young age, which is caused by a buildup of beta amyloid in the brain similar to Early Onset Alzheimer's patients. There is a high possibility (50% chance) that I have this buildup in my brain too, but I haven't had tests to see whether or not I do at this stage.

We are opposed to euthanasia. The main reason for doing so is simply because we believe the Bible to be the Word of God, and it is in His Word that God forbids all murder and assisted suicide. God is the one who gives life and takes it at His time, and it should remain like that.

We realize that many will say that euthanasia is the only humane option for those suffering in any way. We are aware though, that there is good palliative care options available, and there are medications for pain management that works well. It is not inhumane to "force someone to suffer" because we are against euthanasia - because there are good options available for those who need it.

It is of great concern to us that if euthanasia is legalised it will have bad ramifications down the track. Already in Europe there are cases when people are euthanised when their families desire it for selfish reasons. People have felt under pressure to die because of expectations of those around them. Others are not given good palliative care options. How will it be controlled to make sure none of this happens?

Therefore we urgently encourage you as committee to do everything you can to prevent legalising euthanasia, instead supporting palliative care so that people do not feel that they need to end their own lives. Much is at stake!

Yours sincerely,

Gerald and Carolyn den Boer