



RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION

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Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Attention – Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson

Please find our submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life

Choices from the Right to Life Association Western Australia on the question

End of Life Choices for consideration by the WA Parliament ‘

Yours Sincerely

Peter O' Meara
President

SUBMISSION

Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

In submitting this submission we have to be clear on the rights of the person to proper medical care as it relates to their illness, the proper medical care provided them, and how this does not lead to them being deliberately put to death by medical practitioners, or others who are involved in their care. Any proposed law that would allow this is counter to the Principles for inclusion in a charter of Medicine, as expressed by the judges at the Nuremburg Trials who condemned doctors and their assistants of killing millions of innocent people under a Nazi law, and who were convicted of crimes against humanity, and were sentenced to be hanged for their atrocities committed , at the Nuremburg Trials.

(a) Any suggested law to assist a person experiencing chronic and /or terminal illness, including the role of palliative care ; “should be subject to the law of not hastening the person’s death”.

(b) The present intention of the Victorian parliament to allow persons to be killed on request is to be condemned as a crime against humanity, as happened in Nazi Germany.

(c)The intent of any change that may be required in any legislation must be subject to the person’s wellbeing. Any reference to Federal laws must be examined for their content and care for the patients health as well.

(d) Again in examining the role of Advanced Health Directives , Enduring power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Guardianship Laws this must be subject to the persons general situation and must governed by their overall protection from any law that may be detrimental to their life, good health, and medical care.

In any consideration of any law governing the protection of person’s life in their health care, it is important to understand the “Principles for inclusion in a Charter of Medicine” as follows – AIMS. The traditional aim of medicine has been the succour of the bodily needs of the individual irrespective of class or race or creed, the cure of disease, the relief of suffering, and the prolongation of human life. In later years the preservation of disease has been added to the traditional aim. All these have been accomplished by the scientific method coupled with the spirit of charity and service. The achievement of the highest possible level of health for all people is an aim of the World Medical Association. ETHICS. Although there have been many changes in Medicine, the spirit of the Hippocratic Oath cannot change and can be reaffirmed by the profession. It enjoins:

X The brotherhood of medical men and women.

X The motive of service for the good of patients.

X The duty of curing the greatest crime being cooperation in the destruction of life by murder, suicide, and abortion.

X Purity of living and honourable dealing.

X Professional secrecy for the protection of Patients.

X Dissemination of medical knowledge and discovery for the benefit of mankind.