

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission

From: Chilla Bulbeck
Sent: Monday, 9 October 2017 11:46 AM
To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission

Dear Amber Jade-Sanderson,

I write in full support of voluntarily assisted dying for the terminally ill. Making this option available will ease the experience of both the patients and their next of kin. Processes should be put in place by which older individuals, in particular, are prompted to complete and regularly update Advanced Health Directives that outline their wishes.

Having read most of the book *The Peaceful Pill*, few of the life-ending options available to individuals, either with or without their carers, are as simple as medically assisted suicide.

Loved ones experience extreme agony in executing the wishes of their family member or friend with the added pressure of knowing they are breaking the law. Assisted dying should be available for all with a terminal illness or in which their decline into mental or physical incompetence is assured or who are suffering extreme pain.

There should be more proactive encouragement to complete an Advanced Health Directive in which we identify the circumstances under which we want assisted suicide. This service could be initiated for those over the age of say 60 who go into hospital or even visit their GPs, the latter of whom might assist in completing the AHD.

When my father died in January, his three children were in accord with the doctor about ceasing intrusive and painful intervention which allowed him to die. But we had to guess our father's wishes. It is often the case that next of kin are divided over the best course of action, and do not know the wishes of the person perhaps ready for an 'easeful death'.

My congratulations to the government and committee members for initiating this most important enquiry.

(Em.Prof.) Chilla Bulbeck