

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From: Nicolaas Groenewold

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 10:22 AM

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

Subject: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit arguments relating to the enquiry into euthanasia in WA.

In my experience in the death of both of my parents as well as that of my father-in-law and the continuing suffering of elderly and sick friends and relatives, I am acutely aware of the suffering, particularly at the end of life and the wish of many people to end life prematurely to avoid further suffering. However, I am convinced both on the basis of my Christian principles and for pragmatic reasons to euthanasia.

As a matter of principle, I firmly believe that only God has the right to end life at His time and in His way even though that may cause what seems to us to be unnecessary suffering.

As a practical matter, it is quite clear from evidence from many other countries which have legalised euthanasia, which I am sure you are aware of, that the attempts to limit euthanasia to those for whom it was originally intended has been uniformly unsuccessful and that the scope of its application has been progressively widened far beyond the original intent. This has the very real danger that the provisions originally intended to help relieve inexpressible suffering are used to “get rid of” inconvenient people – the aged and infirm, the handicapped.

I plead that you do everything in your power to prevent the legalisation of euthanasia and to put the funding and effort into the improvement of palliative care instead.

I wish you all strength and wisdom in your difficult task.

Sincerely,

Nicolaas Groenewold