

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: Submission on end of life choices

**From:** sunny miller

**Sent:** Monday, 23 October 2017 4:56 PM

**To:** Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <[eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au)>; SunnyMill

**Subject:** Submission on end of life choices

I wish to make the following submission to the **Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices**.

I suffer somewhat from Chronic Obstructed Pulmonary Disorder. I want the opportunity to define when and how my life finishes rather than submit to what I consider inappropriate medical intervention near the end time.

Like many people in our society, I have sought assistance from the medical profession. Most maladies I've had were about 'quality of life' and dealt with professionally to my satisfaction. Now at 77 years of age I want to be able to define when I do not want be hooked to machines, not to be used as a subject of study nor to require sympathy from people who I have not known. This is my desire about how I depart.

My family understands my feelings tho I've not canvassed whether they feel the same.

As the folk singer Tom Paxton said in his song 'Peace' "my own life is all I can hope to control, so let me live for the good of my soul". I do not believe anyone else has the right to asses the 'good of my soul' once I have committed my wants clearly in an Advance Health Directive including the hierarchy of treatment decision - makers.

I assume rightly or wrongly the hierarchy of treatment decision - makers allows me to define how the AHD is enacted for me.

In my circle of acquaintance are people who have been involved in general practice, in nursing and palliative care, and in the funeral industry. Some have opinions contrary to mine but most agree things are being done at this time without sufficient protection for staff involved. Would that it were otherwise.

Having listened to advocates on both sides for some years it saddens me to see such strong views opposed to VE.

It seems there is now a public debate involving those who seek to alter the spirit of the AHD as I understand it. I respect and have no desire to affect other people's decision for themselves. In turn it may be necessary for parliament to ensure that fairness of other opinions be considered. Please keep in mind there may be hidden agendas born of fear or perceived desire to have power over other lives.

Thanks for this opportunity to be heard.

Respectfully and Sun-cerely, Sunny Miller