



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

16th October 2017

Attention: Principal Research Officer

Dear Sir/ Madam

Please DO NOT attempt to legalise euthanasia or assisted suicide. Medical professionals are healers not killers! The Hippocratic Oath that has guided doctors for over 2000 years, states, "I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrong-doing. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course."

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is opposed to assisted suicide & euthanasia, and St Vincent's hospital (the largest provider of palliative care in Victoria) is vehemently opposed to the legislation.

Palliative care and pain relief is already offered to patients, including extremely high doses of morphine where necessary, which aids and limits a persons suffering.

The reality of elder abuse means that assisted suicide may be used by relatives to gain inheritance. There is no foolproof way of ensuring people are not being coerced into ending their lives. Also, the elderly, who have internalised the message that they are a burden, will see the right to die as a duty to die, to relieve the burden of others.

Life is precious. Thankyou

Alison Laird