

SUBMISSION

Attention: Principal Research Officer  
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

I would like to register my vehement opposition to any change of legislation to legalise in any way euthanasia or assisted suicide.

I refer to the WA Labor government's enquiry into end of life 'choices' and request that when reviewing the current framework of legislation, proposed legislation and other relevant reports and materials in other Australian States and Territories and overseas jurisdictions, the following will be considered:

1. The Hippocratic Oath, which has guided doctors for more than 2000 years states, "Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course.
2. The AMA is opposed to assisted suicide and euthanasia and so is St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria's largest provider of palliative care.
3. In Victoria, the proposed Bill abandons patients once they leave the pharmacy with the drugs. No medical care is provided and if the attempt fails, the patient may suffer pain. How does that end suffering or add dignity to death?
4. Legal medical killing sends a message to the disabled, aged, ill, suicidal or depressed that some lives are not worth living. In Belgium, people suffering from depression can choose assisted suicide.
5. Elder abuse is an existing problem in our society today. Older people may be coerced into assisted suicide because family members are in a hurry to get their inheritance.
6. In other countries, like Belgium, there is no age limit. Already a 17 year old boy has been euthanized.

There are many organisations in Australia that are working to prevent suicide. Why does government want to assist suicide?

One of the reasons given by the Yes campaign in the current marriage plebiscite is that many suicides will be prevented. It is not logical to pass one lot of legislation that will supposedly help prevent suicides and pass another lot that will assist suicide.

Yours faithfully



Lesley Dowling



6 October 2017