

Mrs Julie Bogoni

17th October 2017

The Joint Select Committee
Of End of Life Choices
Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005



Dear Sirs,

SUBMISSION to the Inquiry into the need for WA Laws to allow Citizens to make informed choices for end of life.

I believe that the current laws in Western Australia do not need any improvement for people to make choices concerning their end of life. I do however, have serious concerns about this Committee being pressured to recommend changes in favour of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Terms of Reference 1

- Recent press articles report suicide as the leading cause of death for Australians aged between 15 and 44. It is a sad and distressing problem in our society. People experiencing depression or other mental health issues could be at significant risk of being assisted to commit suicide rather than having their illness treated. Promoting suicide as a rational, acceptable and even wise choice for people undermines suicide prevention programs in Western Australia and could cause more devastation to families.
- In a climate of euthanasia as an appropriate choice, such as could develop from legislative change, the elderly might easily feel pressured or even be actively pressured to accept euthanasia in order not to be a "burden" on their family or carers. I believe such a situation would be totally unworthy of a civilized society.

I ask the Committee to recommend an increase in government funding to ensure every person may receive the very best in mental health, aged and palliative care.

Yours faithfully

Julie Bogoni