

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

From: Mal Heyhoe

Sent: Monday, 16 October 2017 5:20 PM

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

Subject: Submission: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

I request that the Joint Select Committee advocate for the introduction of legislation enabling voluntary euthanasia where a person is terminally ill, or is suffering from an incurable condition that the person finds unbearable.

I am a 75 year old in good health but I am concerned that, if my health should deteriorate, I should have the right to choose to have assistance to end my life in a dignified and pain-free manner.

I watched my aunt become totally incapacitated with Alzheimer's Disease. She lay in bed for 7 years, unaware of her surroundings, unable to recognise her visiting relatives and being totally dependent on nursing staff for all her physical functions.

I saw my good friend, an ex police officer, having developed prostate cancer, die after suffering over a 4 year period. He planned to take his own life but was afraid that such a violent end would distress his children and grandchildren.

Obviously the drafting of legislation in relating to this matter needs considerable thought and care.

We are fortunate that for some time other jurisdictions such as the Netherlands, Belgium and Oregon have adopted systems enabling voluntary euthanasia so we have models to guide us in developing an acceptable system.

Whilst I recognise that some people object to voluntary euthanasia on religious or other grounds, I do not accept that these people should impose their beliefs on others. As current polling indicates, there is popular support for voluntary euthanasia so it is now incumbent on the government to introduce this legislation.

Sincerely

Malcolm Heyhoe