

SUBMISSION to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Inquiring into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices regarding their own end of life choices.

Submitted by

Kevin Wringe, private citizen

**GENERAL POSITION**

1. I believe the current laws in Western Australia on Advance Health Directives and Enduring Power of Guardianship make sufficient provision for citizens to make informed choices about their end of life options.
2. I do not support changing State laws to provide for voluntary euthanasia or physician assisted dying.
3. I recommend a review of current palliative care provisions with a view to the provision of appropriate and adequate levels of resourcing of palliative care.

REASONING

- a) I assisted in the care of a very good friend who had Motor Neurone Disease, until his peaceful passing. He received dignified in-home supports, much valued care in a local hospice, and appropriate medical treatment. He was very clear that he did not want physician assisted dying or euthanasia.
- b) I argue it is very dangerous allowing euthanasia or assisted dying. It can never be introduced safely, especially given peoples own feelings of fear, depression, loneliness, or coercion from family members. It is impossible to legislate safely for authorised killing, regardless of checks and balances. The model in the Netherlands does not work well, nor is it adequate as legislated for in Belgium and in Oregon, USA.
- c) Suffering and end of life matters are extremely complex, and enabling euthanasia and physician assisted dying is not a way to address such. It in fact denigrates society and the human dignity of individuals.
- d) The decent, proper way forward, respecting the dignity of each human being, acting safely and compassionately, is with appropriate levels of palliative care.
- e) I respectfully recommend a review of the current provisions of palliative care in Western Australia, with a view to ensuring totally adequate levels of resourcing of palliative care.

Sincerely

Kevin Wringe BSW, BA, STB, Grad Dip Mgmt. 7 October 2017