

Richard and Ruth Cooke

17 October 2017



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

Dear Sirs and Madams

Our Submission to the Inquiry into the Need for WA Laws to Allow Citizens to Make Informed Choices for End-of-Life:

We believe that the current WA laws are sufficient for WA citizens to make informed choices for their palliative care. We oppose any new legislation that legalises the ability of persons (or their carers) to choose to forcibly end life by so-called assisted suicide.

Misplaced compassion and high-profile cases of people seeking "assisted dying", some due to degenerative health conditions, have led some to call for the deliberate ending of life by the direct action of a doctor or by a doctor helping someone to commit suicide. Doctors are bound by the oath that they take to preserve life and not to end a life.

We urge you to please recommend that the WA government put resources and funds into providing more hospice beds, better home care and palliative care. Those who are dying should not be forced to continue treatment that will not help them or make them feel comfortable. They can be placed in a hospice to ease their natural passage into the afterlife or, if possible, allowed to live with their loved ones until the end comes naturally.

We believe that allowing assisted suicide will put pressure on individuals that are deemed to be a drain on the economy to end their life quickly.

Yours faithfully

Richard Cooke

Ruth Cooke