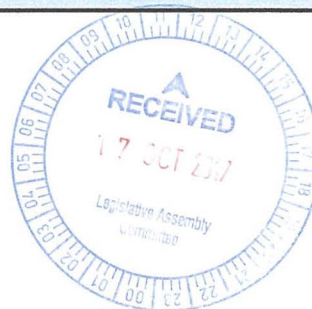


John Ireland

The Principal Research Officer
 Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
 Legislative Assembly
 Parliament House
 Perth WA 6000



11th October 2017

Ms. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
 Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms. Sanderson,

I am writing to express my strong and fervent support for changes to the law which will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in Western Australia.

I have personally experienced the sad death of my mother, who, at 80 years of age tried to overdose on sleeping pills and failed. However, she was determined to end what she saw as a quality of life that she could no longer bear and therefore resorted to placing a large plastic bag over her head and subsequently dying from carbon dioxide poisoning.

My mother didn't die with dignity!! She passed away in horrific circumstances, unable to say farewell to my father or myself or my brother. Can you imagine how she must have felt?? I certainly hope so!!

It is imperative that we, as adult human beings be given the right to decide when our quality of life and suffering has become unbearable and that we be given the means by which we can die with dignity, with our family and friends around us to say farewell.

Provided the person is mentally capable of making such decisions, then there needs to be a reliable legal framework that facilitates their wishes being carried out and that they have a peaceful and dignified death.

I want to have the right (provided I am deemed legally competent) to decide how and when my life is to end and to receive appropriate medical assistance to facilitate my end of life choices.

I trust that you and your committee will give favourable consideration to this submission and if deemed appropriate I would be willing to appear before the committee.

Yours Sincerely
 John Ireland