



Mr JM Iriks

6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Principal Research Officer  
 Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices  
 Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace  
 WEST PERTH WA 6005

SUBMISSION to: Principal Research Officer of 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

#### General Position

- 1 I believe that current Western Australian laws 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.

I believe that life is a gift. During the last ten years of my life I have witnessed many close friends in final stages of ill health and nearing death. Each of them have a different experience but each have passed on in a dignified way afforded by current laws and medical options available. In many cases they are unable to communicate their last wish and so we will never know how they actually felt before slipping away and nor should we presume to know. I have witnessed that last kiss, that last sigh and that last cuddle from a grandchild. I do not believe it is our right to remove that last showing of love in a natural passing.

In my professional life as an accountant in Public Practice I have been privy to many discussions and opinions on the financial affairs of the aged and the sick. I am aware of a number of discussions centred around the inconvenience and expense of managing the lives of a relative who is near the end of their life and sadly have been aware of discussions centred on the financial benefits of euthanasia.

I do not support a change to the law which would enable life to be ended for convenience or financial reasons.

I believe that palliative care options are available to those with chronic or terminal illness and that alleviation of suffering is not a reason for legislating a right to die. I believe the Joint Select Committee should recommend additional funding for palliative care.

Life is not easy but I do not see the answer in opting out, there are far better solutions and I believe society should be exploring options for opting in and assisted living rather than assisted dying.

Signed

Date  
6/10/2017