

9th October, 2017

Octo Moniz



The Joint Select Committee on End of life Choices
Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace
West Perth W.A. 6005

Submission to the Inquiry into the need for W.A. Laws to allow citizens to make informed choices for end of life.

Dear Members of the Committee,

With regards to the '**Term of Reference One**', it is my understanding and strong belief that the current laws and medical practices in W.A. adequately assist citizens to make informed choices when confronted with chronic and / or terminal health conditions, where medical science can no longer provide them with a cure. In particular, I do not support any changes to W.A. laws to provide for either "voluntary euthanasia or physician-assisted dying", which is likely to be raised as a possibility in our State.

It is a known fact that there will always be some people who encounter a chronic or terminal illness in their life journey. These people currently have the right, within existing W.A. laws, to express their desire to cease current or further treatment and simply be allowed to die naturally, whilst being cared for by the 'State', in a most humane and dignified manner, at all times.

Also, there have been significant advances and improvements in administering palliative care to person(s) who may be in need of such care. As a result, any condition of 'pain and / or suffering' if prevalent, is now better managed to ensure a peaceful and natural death.

With regards to the '**Term of Reference Two**', to the best of my knowledge, there are only a very small percentage of Countries or States around the world that have legalized euthanasia or physician assisted dying. Also, it is my understanding that such legislation has not been safely enacted anywhere in the world.

It is for all of the above reasons, that I am personally writing to 'The Joint Select Committee on End of life Choices' to make my informed feeling known that there is no need at all to make any changes to current laws in W.A. that govern this important area of Patient care and / or the need to even consider the tabling of / introduction of any law pertaining to 'euthanasia and/or physician assisted dying'.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you on this important ethical matter. Please also note that though I'd want my views and concerns to be recorded, I do not wish to appear before the Committee.

Thank you ~

Octo Moniz