

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA / Chair of Joint Committee on End of Life Choices/ Letter of support from Dr Cedric Spencer

**From:** C Spencer

**Sent:** Sunday, 22 October 2017 3:51 PM

**To:** Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <[eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au)>

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA / Chair of Joint Committee on End of Life Choices/ Letter of support from Dr Cedric Spencer

22/10/2017

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

Dear Ms Sanderson,

I am writing in support of any laws that will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in W.A.

I have personal experience of the suffering that loved ones and friends have had to endure at the end of their lives. My personal experiences have been witnessing the following:

1. My father dying of lung cancer.
2. My mother dying of the complications of bowel blockage.
3. My sister dying from malignant melanoma.
4. Witnessing the slow death of a dear friend over a prolonged period of suffering from motor neuron disease
5. Another close friend dying of complication from prostate cancer and continuing to ask for relief from his pain.

I know of many other cases such as those above who request relief from their ongoing pain and suffering. While some of the above were cared for in excellent palliative care facilities, unfortunately, most of these folk faced terminal pain and suffering that could not be relieved by the use of any drugs. Metastases to the bones often present particular difficulties in relieving and controlling pain in terminally ill patients.

Several of the above asked for help to end their suffering.

Naturally this prolonged "suffering" is also experienced by those close to the terminally ill person.

I believe that "Good medicine" should be to provide the patient with medical treatment that prolongs their health and quality of life. However I also believe that a patient, who has suffered an hopeless, incurable and painful disease, should have the right to request permanent relief from this suffering.

With regard to the elderly, reliable, legal and peaceful methods to end one's life are not readily available to the older generation who may want to avoid a continuous decline in health and dignity. It then becomes a matter of luck whether someone succeeds or ends up the worse for trying. It must be an individual's personal choice to escape a painful and unbearable life without any perceived dignity. A doctor's assistance would help ensure a peaceful death.

I should be able to get this medical help for a peaceful death, as long as I am competent and have been informed of the alternatives.

A good death should be at a place of my choice, peacefully, and with my family or friends around.

Thank you for considering my submission. I am available for a personal appearance before your Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Cedric Spencer