

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: EOL enquiry submission

From: A Ross

Sent: Friday, 3 November 2017 1:43 PM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Re: EOL enquiry submission

In regard to the legislation on euthanasia/assisted suicide, the practices currently being utilized within the medical community attempt to bring comfort to patients in pain. This adheres in good conscience to the Hippocratic Oath sworn by many graduating medical students, to help and not harm a life.

The original Hippocratic Oath states "I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. Similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy. In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art." Also, "I will apply dietetic measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice."

Even the more common modern Hippocratic Oath asserts "Above all, I must not play at God." In addition, "I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism." (pbs.org The Hippocratic Oath Today)

Changing the current practice will put lives of the vulnerable at risk, and not allow Doctors to keep their oath of helping, not harming.

Please consider the warnings against euthanasia from the Australian Medical Association.

1. "The AMA believes that doctors should not be involved in interventions that have as their primary intention the ending of a person's life. This does not include the discontinuation of treatments that are of no medical benefit to a dying patient." (ama.com.au Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide 2016)

The advice of those whose daily work will be most affected by this decision and who have the best professional vantage point for its outcomes, should be taken seriously.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Mrs. Amanda Ross