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Subject: FW: Submission to Inquiry Into Euthanasia/The Need Of It - Joseph Devitt - A Young Man Who Lives in Hope

From: Joe Dev

Sent: Sunday, 22 October 2017 3:16 PM

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

Subject: Submission to Inquiry Into Euthanasia/The Need Of It - Joseph Devitt - A Young Man Who Lives in Hope

Dear honourable sirs and madams,

I am a twenty-four year old Australian citizen, coming from a family of nine - there are seven children and my Mum and Dad. I received the ATSI General Exhibition Award in the 2010 WACE Awards. I completed a Bachelor of Commerce, and had a position with Woodside Energy. The corporate life was not for me, and I left my job, and I currently bar-tend, while I decide what to do next. I encounter many types in my current line of work; there are many alcoholics, drug-addicts and broken people - but I have never encountered someone who was a meaningless product of evolution, and did not have something to give to the rest of us. I do not think anyone is a meaningless product of evolution, as I imagine no one on the inquiry committee does?

I do not want to waste yours or my time, so let me be brief.

I do not see why there is even a need for this inquiry. It is ridiculous. I think this is a vehicle for pushing euthanasia onto the population. Any state-sanctioned murder is very problematic; the only reasonable exception being capital punishment, and that, I think also, is an undue evil in the times we live in. I think all you honourable members would agree that it is a good thing that we no longer lengthen the necks of those most heinous and hardened criminals. Since old *Edgar*, we have recognised that we should not simply murder those of us who betray the trust of the community and do horrible things.

Why on earth are we even discussing murdering *old-folk* and those in pain? Who on the committee is in favour of it? There is a deep-seated philosophical issue here, whereas we have become so rationalized that we now even rationalize the value of life. Life is above commodification. We value all life until it is taken by means not ours. At least that's what we should value. We are truly *nuts* if we give doctors, our professional *life-savers*, the means for murder. The doctor now becomes an arbiter of life and death, rather than a healer.

My older brother was once very ill, between 18-25. For some of these years he was mostly bed-ridden, and even spent some time undergoing psychological treatment - because he was in such a sorry state. He is now married and slowly recovering, with a very fine wife, and hopefully some kids on the way in the future. He, at some times, became somewhat depressed about his situation, but the family ethic was always positive, and even if things had gone otherwise, we would have maintained *hope*.

Hope, as G.K. Chesterton says, is only a virtue when things are *hopeless*. When things are really bad, it is when we most need to believe that things can get better, and do happen for a reason. Euthanasia is a philosophical killer, in that, it decrees that some things are beyond hope. It decrees that sometimes death must prevail. It decrees that the light does not dispel the darkness, so we should prematurely flick the switch.

I don't trust your inquiry, or your committee. The Premier is in favour of this law-change, because he has

some philosophical deficiencies. He will use his parliament and his position to push this policy. False mercy is no mercy at all. Compassion until the very natural end suggests caring until the end, not bringing about the end oneself. All I ask, is that if you are so in favour of state-sanctioned killing, could you please bring back capital punishment, just so that we have some measure of fairness, and some explanation, when the innocent eight thousand of the womb, and however many we 'mercy-kill' each year, come to us in our moments of reflection, and ask, *why did you do this to me?*

Yours very much alive and thankful for my health and the affirmation of the many who support my being alive,

Joseph S. Devitt