

## **Admin, LACO**

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**Subject:** FW: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

**From:** P A Ryan

**Sent:** Monday, 16 October 2017 12:15 PM

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

**Subject:** Submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Joint Select Committee

We write to you as concerned Western Australian's regarding any changes to WA Law to facilitate end of life choices.

In essence, the Joint Select Committee is considering the merits of introducing Euthanasia and assisted suicide legislation into the WA Parliament but just in another guise.

We submit that Euthanasia and assisted suicide are a disproportionate response to suffering and causes far more social harm than good. We both have experienced close relatives die with terminal conditions. In all these cases, their pain and suffering was well managed by palliative care professionals.

Proponents for legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide suggest it has been occurring in the shadows and should be brought into the light. However, legalisation has simply pushed out the boundary of what is legal. These negative consequences have actually increased the amount of activity that occurs beyond the sight of regulators.

Many countries with legalised euthanasia or assisted suicide have caused many vulnerable people to be placed in difficult situations where they have to make irreversible, complex choices under a great deal of pressure. Evidence suggests that for such people, there is significant doubt that legal safeguards are working as intended.

We consider any changes to WA Law will have very unfortunate consequences. It is totally incomprehensible that some symptoms of pain cannot be totally managed. Therefore, changes to legalisation that facilitates euthanasia or assisted suicide is not the appropriate response.

Western Australia only needs to look at other countries that have traveled down this pathway to recognise euthanasia or assisted suicide has many serious pitfalls. We implore the Joint Select Committee to undertake the most rigorous due diligence and consider the longer term affects on the most vulnerable within our community who should receive our greatest levels of protection. These safeguards are found in our current legislative framework.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Paul and Angela Ryan