

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

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From:

Sent: Sunday, 22 October 2017 9:56 PM

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

Subject: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a submission to explain why we believe that allowing euthanasia will be detrimental to the people of this country.

As Christians we are principally opposed to permitting physicians to intentionally kill patients or assisting patients in killing themselves. Doing so breaks God's commands regarding the sanctity of human life, one we ignore at our own peril. For those who are not Christians, the point needs to be made that legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide crosses a very serious and significant ethical threshold. Our society is built on the principle that every human life has value. Changing the law would be an unacceptable departure from this principle. Once this line is crossed, no guarantees will be sufficient to ensure that the weakest and most vulnerable will be protected. It also sends a very conflicting message to those considering suicide as a solution to their troubles and undermines suicide prevention efforts.

We believe that the government's energy and resources should be directed towards improving palliative care. We also need to devote effort to supporting strong and healthy families that can support the aged, the sick, the disabled and chronically ill.

Changing the laws to allow euthanasia is a disproportionate response to the real problems of patient pain and suffering. The real issue is one of public funding and building capacity in our communities to care for and support these valuable members.

Undoubtedly there will be many heart rending submissions detailing personal hardships that appear to demand such a change in the law. Yet no story, no matter how emotionally charged should prevent the committee from ignoring the principle that life is valuable and precious.

We wish you much wisdom as you consider this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Wayne and Cheronne van der Heide