

Principal Research Officer.

October 19, 2017

Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Perth, WA 6000

To Whom It May Concern



As a Senior in her seventies I am writing out of concern that euthanasia and assisted suicide might be considered for legalization. If a bill were to be passed a Pandora's Box would be opened.

There are a number of arguments against euthanasia and assisted suicide but I would like to focus on a couple of ways in which doctors would be affected. Firstly they would automatically become compromised; having been trained to help heal and preserve life to also being required to facilitate and deliberately end lives. As part of the process they would have to make judgment calls on when a patient might be expected to die. No one can predict the life expectancy of a person. My husband, a retired physician treated a number of patients with life threatening diseases but some lived months and sometimes years beyond all expectations. Secondly, mistakes occur in diagnosis and prognosis. This could result in people being put to death when they would have had years to live. It isn't surprising therefore - to quote Australian Medical Association president, Michael Gannon as reported by Paul Kelly in "The Weekend Australian" "of the one hundred and nine national medical associations representing different countries, one hundred and seven oppose euthanasia."

Instead of creating problems inherent in the practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide, more training and money should be put towards palliative care and hospice facilities. Here people (also those suffering severe pain) can be treated effectively and be given the support, respect and the dignity they deserve as human beings.

Thanking you for your time and careful consideration,

* October 14-15

Yours faithfully,