

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Cancellation of 2pm Hearing

From: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Sent: Friday, 2 March 2018 8:04 PM

To: 'Vicky Burrows'

Subject: FW: Cancellation of 2pm Hearing

Dear Ms Burrows

Thank you for the email of 1 March 2018 below, which was considered at a recent meeting of the Committee.

As you may have been aware, following the earlier confirmation by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry that representatives would attend a hearing for the inquiry, this information was published as part of the Committee's hearing schedule for the week commencing 26 February 2018 on the inquiry website, and in a media release.

Because the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry decided that it would not appear at the inquiry hearings, the Committee website will need to be altered to reflect the revised schedule of hearings.

By way of explanation for this change in schedule, the Committee was proposing to publish your email of 1 March 2018 (with your personal contact details redacted) on the inquiry website, however it first wanted to give the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry an opportunity to comment on that proposal should it wish to do so.

Comments for the Committee's consideration should be provided by 9 March 2018, or the email will be published as proposed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information

Kind regards

Jeannine



Jeannine Purdy *Principal Research Officer*

Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly of Western Australia
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Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace, West Perth WA 6004

From: Vicky Burrows

Sent: Thursday, 1 March 2018 11:35 AM

To: Huntly, Marion <mhuntly@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Cancellation of 2pm Hearing

Dear Marion

I am writing to you today to inform you that Reg, Donna and myself will not be presenting to the Hearing of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak but we do not feel comfortable presenting to the hearing.

We encourage the committee to engage in a larger community consultation with Aboriginal people about End of Life Choices.

Through our experience in palliative care and with diverse families we know the value of good strong support for people at all stage of their life. We believe it is important for the Committee to consider the social and economic barriers that prevent some Aboriginal people from accessing good quality palliative care. Life and our elderly are valued in the Aboriginal communities we work with and we hope that the committee considers upholding a commitment that our society has to valuing our most vulnerable when they are sick and unwell. We reiterate that we should be investing in support for our communities who are experiencing high rates of suicide. Something that is not within Aboriginal culture.

Death is a natural part of life and many of our Aboriginal communities have strong beliefs around treatment and respect for this process. As we mentioned in our submission, when Euthanasia was introduced in NT it was not supported by the Aboriginal community, nor was a wide consultation done. Whilst Western Australian Aboriginal communities are different from NT communities we think the principles of consultation should be the same. Euthanasia affects the whole community not just an individual and we believe a whole of community approach to looking after people is a better approach.

We apologise for the short notice in pulling out and wish you the best

Peace

Vicky



Vicky Burrows
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ACM acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.