To EUTHANASIA Committee of A&T Legislative Assembly.

Euthanasia is now being forced on people as an easy option to a growing problem of too many older and sick people in a dwindling population of tax payers to support them.

No humane person wants to see a dying person needlessly suffering mentally or physically. Palliative care is one way of helping to alleviate such suffering. More funds should be allocated to this. Another way is to die surrounded by a loving family (though, of course, all suffering is not eliminated by these means).

The greatest problem with euthanasia is that it tends, over time, no matter how many so-called safeguards are introduced, to allow vulnerable dying persons to become victims. Someone can be put on them to die for the convenience of others. Also, the dying increasingly see themselves as a burden on others (including financial) and can be persuaded to ask for euthanasia.

Also, experience in other countries has shown that, over time, the classes of people allowed to euthanise are increased from 1) those in intolerable pain to 2) not just physical pain but depression to 3) minors can demand it, etc.

Another injustice which occurs is that doctors and other health professionals are firstly, pressured to perform euthanasia when it is against their strongly held principles. Later, they are legally forced to do it or forced to refer someone to a doctor who does euthanasia. Where is freedom of conscience then?

When many old or sick people feel pressured or forced to ask for euthanasia because of being a burden to others, the mental suffering caused to such people is intense,
Many people in pain can say they want to die, but if they are assured of caring support at the end of their lives, they no longer wish to be killed.

At present doctors can legally ease the pain (mental and physical) of dying by prescribing drugs which may hasten death. This is not euthanasia as some people erroneously think because the intention is not to kill but to relieve pain. I have seen this ease the burden of dying for some of my relatives.

To force doctors to intentionally kill the dying leads over time to a恶劣 attitude by such doctors towards the sick. They don't need to try other methods to relieve pain, just take the easy way out.

It is human nature to take the easy way out if it is made legal and commonly used.

Legalised euthanasia, while appearing to be a humane solution to suffering, leads over time to much more suffering than it eliminates (especially mental suffering), abuse and bullying of old people I think regarded as a burden.

Ms Jane Andrews

Curtin  ACT  2605
To Euthanasia Committee of ACT Legislative Assembly

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[Signature redacted]

Ms Jane Andrews

[Street address redacted]

Curtin ACT 2605