

What to say when you have found them

Suicide

- The rate of youth suicide in WA is alarmingly high. You don't prevent suicide by enabling it.
- An increase of mental health awareness campaigns and intervention strategies aim to teach good mental health care and first aid and reduce the rate of suicide – serious mixed messaging going on here when society is actively promoting suicide in “voluntary assisted dying”.
- Existing mental health ill issues are both dismissed and supported in one fell swoop by allowing voluntary assisted dying.

Disability

- Euthanasia is ableist. It tells people that they are better off dead than disabled.
- Euthanasia devalues all those living with disabilities, and promotes the idea that a person's value lies only in what “use” they can contribute to society. When they are not “useful” they are perceived as, and made to feel like, they are a burden on those around them.

Wrongful deaths

- We got rid of the death penalty because we'd rather 1000 guilty men go free than have one innocent man lose his life. Mistakes happen – just take Andrew Mallard and John Button's cases. Mistakes *will* happen with voluntary assisted dying.
- There is no safe way to monitor it. How can the **Schedule 8** drugs be regulated? There's a high chance of the safe locked box Victoria is trying to introduce will get misplaced or misused.
- Doctors freely admit that they make mistakes with diagnosis and prognosis – predicting death isn't an exact science.
- The procedure has a high rate of failure, and people die painful, drawn-out deaths.

Our vulnerable elderly

- Euthanasia is just a deadly form of elder abuse. Is this how we want to treat those who've sacrificed so much so that we can enjoy the good life without them? No; we need to give back to those who worked so hard for us and care for them.
- Euthanasia promotes the idea that a person's value lies only in what “use” they can contribute to society. When they are no longer “useful” they are perceived as, and made to feel like, they are a burden on those around them.

Palliative care

- WA has the lowest number of palliative care beds in the entire country, with more and more funds being withdrawn from services every year. Let's get our priorities straight by fixing that before introducing something new.
- So many people don't accurately understand what palliative care's purpose is, and how it's performed. It's not about prolonging someone's life as much as possible, rather, making what little time is left as comfortable as possible.

Society

- **Only 35%** of the submissions made to the 2017 parliamentary enquiry called for the introduction of voluntary assisted dying laws, despite the biased report leading people to believe that there was a higher demand than that.