



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES IN THE ACT**

Ms Bec Cody MLA (Chair), Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA,  
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

## Submission Cover Sheet

### End of Life Choices in the ACT

**Submission Number: 111**

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**From:** Mark Taylor  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT  
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WANNIASSA ACT 2903  
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I would like to register my concerns about the possible legalization of euthanasia in the ACT.

I object to euthanasia on principle, but as a matter of public policy I also have concerns about the difficulty of preventing abuse. There has been anecdotal evidence (and it cannot be anything more than anecdotal, since no one will admit it officially) from The Netherlands and Belgium over many years of the safeguards in their legislation being ignored, and the decisions being made by medical staff and/or family members. One would have to hope that family members' decisions are made for the proper motives, but the recent concerns in the media about powers of attorney being misused by family members make it clear that this will not always be the case.

The safeguards in the Victorian legislation appear to be quite comprehensive, but some in the medical community have expressed the opinion that it will be impossible to guarantee their total observance.

A better alternative would be more resources being devoted to palliative care.

Yours faithfully

Mark Taylor