



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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,
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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry into end of life choices
Date: Friday, 16 February 2018 8:29:33 PM

Dear Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT,

I am strongly opposed to voluntary assisted dying, both on practical and moral grounds.

Some may be tempted to believe that this would increase the choice available to those dying, but in reality it would diminish choice because of the pressure imposed on patients to end their lives by budget-conscious hospitals or even family members. I therefore hope that the committee will see fit to rule out assisted dying as being beneficial to the community at an early stage of the inquiry.

I also wish to stress that assisted suicide cannot really be considered as a medical option at all. From the earliest times, medical professionals have defined themselves as healers, a calling which could not be more dissimilar to those who deliberately kill. The Hippocratic Oath makes this distinction very clear by forbidding doctors to 'give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor making a suggestion to this effect'. I therefore hope that the committee will not confuse assisted dying with the work of medicine.

For the reasons mentioned above, I urge the committee to reject assisted suicide and instead concentrate on improving real end-of-life choices, such as access to proper palliative care for all in the ACT.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Graham Stitz

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