



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES IN THE ACT

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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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Please find below my views on the Inquiry into End of Life Choices in the ACT.

First off, the "right to die" is not a right to claim.....believe it or not, we are all going to die.

The way in which we die is the ethical question.

I would never like to be labelled with the tag of someone who helped another to die. Are we not spending millions of dollars on this exact personal and social tragedy of trying to prevent others from committing suicide? And why? So they can see that we actually do have compassionate and caring people who want to help make their lives more comfortable in the emotional sense. In other words to help them deal with their issues.....to let them know that there is someone out there who will listen and try very hard to help them.

If you legalise, assisting someone to die; all they have to do is ask someone to help them die and give a reason that they "are weary of life" as we see happening now in other countries.

If you pass this, then stop the financial assistance now given to "suicide prevention" programs and give it to those who would rather die with the medically and compassionately trained Palliative Care Teams around the country.

Fatigue, fragility and depression are not a reason to ask for a lethal injection. That is what family and community are for. Why we don't encourage people to be more 'family' orientated (whether it is biological family or not) and allow Communities to flourish to include those who are fatigued, fragile and depressed. Pour money into this because there are people out there who either think they have no one or genuinely do not, to care for them.

Deliberate interventions to end life will tear at the fabric of our society even more. We are already seeing this everywhere; especially where it seems older and fragile family members and members of the community are not valued, cared for or interacted with. Because we think they have nothing to offer. Everyone has something to offer, and we shouldn't be offering to assist 'their' suicide.

Yes, we are all afraid of pain when we are dying and because we are facing our mortality doesn't make it any easier. But my goodness is there anything else you so called 'decision makers' worldwide want to do to try and change and de-humanise our existence here on Earth? To be human is to experience pain, in any way. If you love another human being you should be by their side and sharing their pain. That is what will help them through, not an injection. Its called compassion and making yourself available to someone in need. We all need it.

Marianne Forshaw