



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,
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 265

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From: ANDREW MUIR
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Friday, 16 March 2018 11:36:34 AM

Re: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry

Dear Secretary,

I am concerned that the ACT Assembly is considering introducing legislation to allow some form of assisted suicide to be introduced into the ACT. As an ACT resident I am strongly opposed to the introduction of any mechanisms that would allow people to end their life. Death is a natural and inevitable part of the time we spend in this world. As living beings created by God, only God has the right to determine the length of our sojourn on earth. Legislation to circumvent Gods plan for each of us poses a number of ethical dilemmas. It also assumes that healing miracles that defy medical explanation cannot occur in those diagnosed with terminal illness or indeed wrong diagnosis in the first case. Will elderly people inevitably be pressured, very subtly be the media and some family members, to end their lives prematurely so that they will no longer be a burden? Motivation for this may be for family members to gain access to assets held by senior citizens and to hasten their inheritance entitlements. Will doctors be placed in a position where they are involved in assisting people to die, either directly or indirectly, in violation of the Hippocratic oath? Surely a better way is to allow people suffering from a terminal illness to receive adequate pain killing medication in their final days in facilities that provide for a comfortable and natural end to their lives and for these facilities to be adequately funded. If we start down the pathway of assisted suicide where does it end? European experiences show that safeguards slowly disappear and the criteria for eligibility for assisted suicide continue to increase. Better to not start on this journey and remove the temptation for our political masters to decide who will live and who will die.

Sincerely,
ANDREW MUIR

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KAMBAH, AU-ACT 2902

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