



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

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From: James Eric [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Friday, 23 March 2018 8:58 AM
To: andrew.snedden@parliament.act.gov.au.
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Choices in the ACT

Dear Sir

I should like to express my strong support for the introduction of legislation that will allow individuals in the ACT to make personal choices in regard to ending their own lives.

Advances in medical technology and general improvements in standards of living have created situations in which people can be kept alive for extended periods, while suffering pain and discomfort and loss of physical and mental abilities. In such situations there should be clear and straightforward provisions that will allow sensible and rational decisions to be made to terminate life.

I appreciate that controls will be needed to prevent the abuse of such provisions. I also appreciate the difficulties that arise when individuals are too ill to make such choices for themselves. Suitable safeguards will be needed to take account of these factors. These safeguards might include an ability for an individual to specify in advance what they would wish to happen if they become too ill to express an opinion. This might apply, but not be limited to, people suffering from severe mental disorders.

A careful balance should be struck between these various factors, while giving as much choice as possible to the person concerned. In this regard, I believe the recent provisions introduced in the State of Victoria place too many restrictions on what should be the rights of the individual.

I am sorry to have to make such a brief submission. I had not appreciated that the closing date was so near. I would be happy to enlarge on my views if that is needed.

Yours sincerely

Eric James

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