



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: 439

Date Authorised for Publication: 19/4/18

From: Linda Foster-James
To: andrew.snedden@parliament.act.gov.au
Subject: End of life choices
Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 3:54:03 PM

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 improvements in standards of living are enabling people to be kept alive for extended periods while suffering ongoing severe pain and, in some cases, considerable 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 and there may well be a need for an agency which also protects elderly people from abuse from within families and from providers of services and support. A careful balance should be reached between these factors, while giving as much choice as possible to the person concerned. With this in mind, 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.

Yours faithfully

Linda Foster-James (Mrs)