



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: 14

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

From: Nancy Wood
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Submission to ACT EOLC Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 4 January 2018 4:07:02 PM
Attachments: [Nancy Wood, Submission to the ACT Inquiry into End of Life Choices 2018.docx](#)

EOLC Committee, ACT

Please find my attached submission to the ACT Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

Yours sincerely

Nancy Wood

[REDACTED]

Mittagong NSW 2575

Phone [REDACTED]

Submission to the ACT Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Summary of my position.

I strongly support the addition of Voluntary Assisted Dying/Voluntary Euthanasia as an additional compassionate and humane option in good end of life care and recommend that the ACT enact a law to enable this choice, together with appropriate guidelines and regulations. This end of life option should be available to all Australians.

Rationale supporting my position.

- A number of my friends and family have had what I would describe as a "bad death" in spite of palliative care. The outstanding example is that of my sister in February 2017. Joyce had been diagnosed with inoperable ovarian cancer just months previously. It spread to her liver and bones causing her great suffering. She had accepted that she was soon to die, and said goodbye to close family on a Sunday. She then lingered on in a semi coma until Wednesday morning, leaving her husband in particular very distressed at how she had suffered over those last days. I do not know if Joyce would have chosen an assisted death. I do know that it would provide great comfort to me, should I be in an identical situation, to know that I could take a dose of medication after saying goodbye to all, go to sleep, and not wake up.

- The passing of legislation to give Voluntary Assisted Dying choice in Victoria, albeit under very restricted circumstances, makes it very rational and logical that all Australians, including those in the ACT, should have the same choice. In addition I note that every adult in Canada, which has a culture not unlike that of Australia, has what they call Medical Assistance in Dying. Again, Australians should not be denied a similar end of life choice.

- The evidence is clear from reports from Oregon, USA, where Assisted Dying has been a choice for the terminally ill for over 20 years, that this compassionate law does work and works well. Suggestions by those opposing this choice that the 'vulnerable' are at risk are proved to be simply scaremongering, and this has been found in numerous reputable research including the Victorian Inquiry into End of Life Choices and their Expert Panel Report, an Australia 21 Report, a major investigation over 2 years and subsequent Report by the Quebec Parliament in Canada, and in other Canadian Reports.

I make this submission as a Christian and one of the 75 to 80% of Australians who support this issue. Thank you for the opportunity to present my case.

Yours sincerely

Nancy Wood

[REDACTED]

Mittagong NSW 2575

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Emailed to LACCommitteeEOLC@parliament.act.gov.au