



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: 72

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

From: Mia Campioni
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: submission
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 6:23:06 PM

Name: Maria C.Campioni

DOB: [REDACTED]/[REDACTED]/1932

Address: [REDACTED] Annandale NSW 2038

nationality: of Dutch descent, Australian citizen since 1975

Retired academic since 1988

Self-trading 1988-2016

Currently Centrelink Aged Pensioner.

My submission derives from a direct interest in the issue of voluntary euthanasia, but more specifically how this in reality concerns elderly single women such as me.

Since I originally I come from the Netherlands, I know exactly how the Law on Self-desired Dying operates there: it is less strict and more widely interpreted than the law in Victoria. However, both of these laws operate entirely within the gamut of 'suffering of a terminal illness', which excludes an important cohort, namely elderly people who are not regarded as having a terminal illness by just getting very old, having no other future than death, and almost certainly having to suffer from manifold physical and psychical problems to get to that end point.

In the Netherlands there are changes foreseen in the future to introduce a separate law of voluntary (assisted or not) dying for the aged (probably starting from 76 years old), who are seen as suffering from a desire to die due to a sense of 'fulfilled life' and are suffering from a fear of oncoming loss of independence of mind and body.

But there appears no recognition of this group of citizens in Australia, who are well-known to be the mainstay of such organisations as Dying with Dignity and Exit International.

Yet, it is precisely in Australia where Aged Care is a fr

My submission is thus based on a request to extend the issue of voluntary euthanasia to incorporate the very real and necessary voice of the aged on the basis of human rights.

So that it becomes possible for an elderly person to decide on the matter and moment of one's death and the availability of such (with assistance if necessary), in a dignified manner with a painless legal medicine, and in the presence of our loved ones.

Thank you,

Mia Campioni