



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**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: 82**

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**From:** Ellen Bannister  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Voluntary assisted dying as a legal end of life choice  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7 February 2018 12:35:52 PM

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Dear Committee Members

I am writing to add my voice to those urging you to support end of life choices legislation which would include voluntary assisted dying.

The desperately pain-wracked and terminally ill have been crying out for help to die peacefully and in the comforting arms of their loved ones for so long.

Polls show that a large majority of people in the community support providing this loving help and many of those have lived at first hand – as I have – through what seems to be an interminable time of being asked what they had done to deserve being forced to live through apparently endless months and even many years of **unrelenting** and **unrelievable** suffering.

Fears of a “slippery slope” have not been realised in rigorous studies of overseas legislation which permits the loving practice of voluntary assisted dying.

Our society does not withhold such an act of mercy from even the lowliest of animals.

As voluntary assisted dying provides for the sufferer themselves to have the decision-making responsibility in this matter (and be protected by stringent safeguards to ensure it is free of coercion), I cannot see how others have any right at all to prevent that person obtaining any help they need to have the peaceful and loving exit they yearn for.

I fervently hope I will see you showing mercy to those tortured by their illness by supporting voluntary assisted dying as a legal end of life choice.

Yours in compassion,  
Ellen Bannister