



**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

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**From:** William Larkin  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Select Committee on End of Life Choices in The ACT.  
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The Secretary ,  
The Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT

I wish to make the following submission regarding the desirability of legislating for voluntary assisted dying in the ACT.

Voluntary assisted dying or euthanasia is not a desirable practice for treating the terminally ill and for those who no longer want to live.

The frail and elderly who feel they are a burden on their family are often under pressure to end their life especially if they are suffering terminal illness and are in pain or discomfort.

Countries where euthanasia is legalised have watered down supposed safeguards designed to prevent pressure on these vulnerable people , resulting in some cases people being euthanized against their will.

Those people who no longer want to live have a psychological problem which is amenable to treatment by psychologists and who can be assisted to change their mind about ending their lives.

The alternative to euthanasia is good palliative care which can ease the terminally ill persons pain and making them comfortable when their bodily functions require expert nursing to make them comfortable.

My own father suffered pain and discomfort when terminally ill from aggressive prostate cancer.

He was cared for at home with my mother and sometimes myself and my sister assisting until we could no longer give him proper care and was transferred to a palliative care hospital.

He received much better pain relief and was made more comfortable and cheerful

until

he passed away from the cancer.

I believe that good quality palliative care can result in a good outcome from people suffering

end of life pain and discomfort and help their family come to terms with their natural death.

Families of people who die from euthanasia on the other hand could feel that killing their

loved ones was not the best option and could feel guilt and remorse that the alternative

palliative care was not provided for them .

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