



**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: 356**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 19/4/18**

**From:** Leslie Hood  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 7:12:19 AM

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Re: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry

Dear Secretary,

In March last year my husband entered hospital after a long and very difficult illness. Throughout his illness he was cared for respectfully and with professionalism. During his final weeks he had exceptional care, despite the appalling state of The Canberra Hospital, which blacked out for 8 hours during his stay and I watched the nurses care for their patients by the light of their own mobile phones throughout the night, working tirelessly to ensure the comfort of their patients. In his last days my husband had the added care of a palliative care nurse. This woman gently and smoothly guided his path through the last days of his life as he prepared himself for his last breath. She also assisted me in dealing with this crisis. My husband was never allowed to suffer and he died with dignity. It has come to my attention that there is only one palliative care nurse for every 700 deaths in Australia. I believe any attempt to hasten the death of a person would be the absolutely wrong direction for a civilised nation to move in. We need to spend more on training and supplying palliative care nurses. No doubt cutting lives short would cost less money and would be cloaked in some sort of false idea of compassion. Instead we need to expand the services of those assisting the dying and ensure adequate mental health professionals are available for those who are finding life difficult. The associated risks of euthanasia are far too high and I believe this would be a misdirection of our Health Care. More palliative and mental health care professionals please, not assisted suicide.

Sincerely,

Leslie Hood

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Florey, AU-ACT 2615

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