



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES IN THE ACT

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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 370

Date Authorised for Publication: 19/4/18

From: Dom Fiocco
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 4:20:39 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

I write in relation the inquiry into End-of-Life Choices in the ACT. Thank you for taking submissions. I could write in relation to my strongly held Christian and Biblical convictions but I will refrain and speak of the practical implications of introducing any legislation along the lines of what has happened in Victoria recently. I wish to argue strongly against any change of legislation that might allow for assisted suicide and euthanasia for these reasons; i) the elderly and chronically ill may feel pressured into thinking they should end their life prematurely, ii) it will cheapen life and create an attitude of "my life is not worth living, why go on?", iii) it will be possible & highly likely (given other evidence from around the world) that people may kill themselves based on a wrong diagnosis, iv) assisted suicide may have an enormous psychological impact on doctors and their patients and even erode trust of a patient with their doctor, v) the grounds for assisted suicide are likely to be extended (as in the case of the Dutch government) to include anyone who feels "their life is complete", vi) ongoing funding for palliative care nursing and training is most likely to cease or be reduced because it will be "cheaper" to kill someone off quickly rather than focusing on relief of pain through the natural dying process, vii) the mentally ill, unstable or disabled person may well be killed off because they are seen as no longer "economically productive" for society, viii) didn't we witness assisted suicide and euthanasia under Hitler's Nazi Germany and didn't we learn anything from history? I pray that we do not go down this terrible road and cheapen human life in the name of "avoiding suffering and pain". Thank you again for the opportunity to speak up.

Sincerely,
Dom Fiocco

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