



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: 83

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From: Janet Burgess
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT - Submission
Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2018 2:10:15 PM

Dear Sir

I write in answer to your Invitation for Submissions to the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT.

Whilst I do not live in the ACT, I am a close neighbour in NSW and I have recently been devastated by my own state government's failure to pass assisted dying laws.

As a 60+ year old, with an 80+ year old husband (both of us with cancer), and having nursed my mother through end stage metastatic cancer, I have a close acquaintance with the trauma of a long-drawn-out and painful death and a steadily increasing fear of our own health condition.

I am sure that you will be inundated with submissions giving reasons for and against this issue, especially from those with strong personal religious beliefs.

All I ask is that you consider the millions of people like myself and my husband, who do NOT believe that a pain-free, dignified death a little earlier than would otherwise have occurred, is a sin. It seems particularly unfair to me that people such as us should be driven to end our own lives in fear and secrecy much earlier than we would want to, because we know that once the medical profession get hold of us we will not have the opportunity to do so.

I call it "jumping off the cliff while I've still got the health to climb it".

With ample safeguards to ensure that no one is pressured or forced, and in the full knowledge that nobody who is against this law would be forced to use it, I ask that you allow us the choice.

Regards
Janet Burgess


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