



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES IN THE ACT

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Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 198

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From: Judy Nixon
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Friday, 9 March 2018 2:03:02 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my concerns that I would like you to consider in the Current End-of-life Enquiry. I recognise the mine-field involved in formulating ACT legislation around this issue. My own mother died early from cancer and so I didn't get the opportunity to provide assistance to her during that time. However I was blessed beyond measure to be involved with my father's care during his illness of cancer and resultant death. While he chose to be at home when he would die and was supported by family in this he ended up having a severe reaction to some food he'd eaten and therefore was in hospital when he passed. My own children and grandchildren all got to spend time with him as did my nieces/nephews and grand nieces/nephews. Yes there was a cost for many of them to visit so the frequency and availability differed somewhat, however none of us would have considered it a burden when seen as the whole picture of life, love and family relationship. I myself took unpaid leave from my employment to provide my sister with assistance in his primary care. I know not all people will have family and even when they do it may be marginally dysfunctional and therefore make for difficult rational end of life choices, however I would not want the ACT to follow the suit of other states or countries for the ease of doing so. As you would be aware: - there are people who have been mis-diagnosed with terminal conditions who have gone on to live full lives who would be vulnerable to end of life actions. - the AMA do not agree with the application of euthanasia and would like to see more investment in palliative care arrangements. - such legislation would be against the Hippocratic Oath that has served well for more than 2,000 years. - vulnerable people such as aged, mentally ill and even ill young children are being provided with end of life services. - an easy end to/of life option can put unnecessary pressure on family members creating such pressure that the patient sees themselves as a burden to the family and opts for voluntary suicide. Instead of having End-of-life legislation I would like to see palliative care opportunities in the ACT expanded to cover the needs of our ageing population which includes myself. Thank you

Sincerely,
Judy Nixon

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