Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 206
Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18
Re: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry

Dear Secretary,

I am concerned about voluntary euthanasia being considered in the ACT or any part of Australia for that matter. Any decisions made around the end of life would be made by people who are already grieving and stressed and the ability to think clearly is diminished. I believe there are cases where people have been diagnosed as terminal and continue to live well beyond the time "guessed" for them. My husband's uncle is a case in point, it is now over a year since he was told his death was imminent and he cashed in life insurance policies. He lives comfortably at home with wife and family around him. Yes he is limited to a wheel chair, but has a quality of life that includes interaction with many visitors and enjoying the life he has left. This legislation would make it possible for elderly people to end their life if they felt a burden to their family. People with mental health issues could be assisted to end their lives rather than be provided with the assistance they need to live well. The Victorian discussion acknowledging that extra suicides were inevitable 'collateral damage' from the legalisation of euthanasia but was willing to accept this, is abhorrent and should be taken as a reason for not proceeding with this legislation in the ACT. More money should be allocated for end of life care such as is provided by Clare Holland house rather than this legislation.

Sincerely,
Gillian Punch

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