



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

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From: David Roberts
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
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1. current practices utilised in the medical community to assist a person to exercise their preference in managing the end of their life, including palliative care;

there are currently no medical practices that are legal that will assist in determining the end of your life. There is only pain management and eventual palliative care.

2. ACT community views on the desirability of voluntary assisted dying being legislated in the ACT;

In relation to 2. above, there has never been a survey of the views of the ACT population. It is question that should be asked at an election.

3. risks to individuals and the community associated with voluntary assisted dying and whether and how these can be managed;

there are lots of risks at present to people who are trying to manage their own voluntary assisted dying.

a. it is currently illegal to obtain Schedule 8 drugs to assist in dying and it is illegal for anyone to assist you even though there may have been little or no assistance. They run the risk of being charged with helping you commit suicide.

b. irrespective of the law, people who believe in individual end-of-life choice will go out of their way to obtain products to end their life without knowing anything about the purity, reliability of the product. The result may not be immediate death but a vegetable state. Legal assisted dying would prevent that happening. Currently you cannot end your own life in the presence of your family and friends because this leaves them open to be charged with assisting you in suicide, this means that currently people will die alone which is a very sad outcome.

4. the applicability of voluntary assisted dying schemes operating in other jurisdictions to the ACT, particularly the Victorian scheme;

If one part of Australia has enacted legislation on assisted dying then it should be universal across Australia and legislated on by the Commonwealth government.

5. the impact of Federal legislation on the ACT determining its own policy on voluntary assisted dying and the process for achieving change; and

In relation to 5. above it is not the role of the Commonwealth Government to determine my views and overturn the laws of the 'supposedly independent' ACT government. It was overturned by the C/W Government because of the views of a heavily Catholic biased Liberal caucus.

6. any other relevant matter.

In relation to 6, it should not be the prerogative of Politicians to determine, based on their religious views, what I can or cannot do at the end of my life. If I do not subscribe to the airy fairy views of heaven and hell or to an afterlife then their views have no relevance to me. Given the extremely high cost of being kept alive for no purpose, other than to satisfy

the religious doctrine of politicians, that money could well be put to better purposes for my grandchildren's education. Once your quality of life is lost and there is no cure for your disease, I would wish to depart this life before pain or severe dementia sets in. Once I don't know who my wife is, or my children and grandchildren then I have become a vegetable and I should be 'harvested' and any remaining organs that are of use to other recipients should be passed on. I detest the term Voluntary Euthanasia, it sounds more like putting the cat down by the Vet, there has to be a better phrase to describe your end of life choice.

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