



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

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GARRAN ACT 2605
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The Secretary
ACT Legislative Committee on End of Life Choices
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

I just wanted to make a few observations on the upcoming Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

Firstly, no doubt your Committee will be recommending safeguards be built into any legislation. What guarantee could your Committee provide that they will not be watered down or eroded over time despite the best intentions. That is not unheard of.

Secondly, why, before proceeding to legislate not give serious consideration to upscaling palliative care. I have heard from people who had a family member in palliative care and spoke very highly of the care and dignity provided.

Thirdly, the medical profession is fallible – what if there might be an incorrect diagnosis. How would that medical team live with their decision to euthanize. Additionally, no doubt a family could sue the medical team.

Fourthly, people with disabilities must be in a high risk category. Elderly parents would be vulnerable from avaricious children where estate planning could come into play.

Personally, I cannot see anything positive about legalising euthanasia, just a very regressive move.

I wish your Committee every success in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Sadie McHugh
[REDACTED]