



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**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: 371**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 19/4/18**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 4:34:32 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

I would urge you to consider the seriousness of the End of Life inquiry before you. There are heated emotions on both sides of the debate, but I implore you to look to facts, not just emotion when considering such crucial life and death issues. The facts tell us that so-called "safeguards" quickly fade after these kinds of laws are passed, leaving elderly people and those with reduced decision making capacity greatly vulnerable to abuse. We cannot ignore the fact that to include in the role of the physician the task of ending life, we automatically redefine their role altogether and effectively do away with the Hippocratic Oath, which has ensured for millennia that a doctor is there to help, to heal and to restore life. Altering this truly opens Pandora's Box, and no amount of "safeguarding" will protect vulnerable members of our society, no matter how good the intention. I believe we must put energy and funding instead into improving our palliative care structures and facilities; this will help ensure people can indeed "die with dignity" while at the same time protecting the intrinsic responsibility of every physician - which is only ever to aid life, not make decisions about when it should end. Thank you. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACT [REDACTED]

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