



**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: 466**

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Enquiry Voluntary Assisted Dying  
Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 11:00:01 PM

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Dear Committee Members

I urge the members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to legislate for Voluntary Assisted Dying.

In the past, I have loved and cared for several people with terminal illness. I have witnessed many days & hours of undue suffering, loss of dignity, and the dreadful emotional impact on both patients and those close to them.

Not a single one of these people had a fear of death; each one had come to terms with their mortality. Without exception though, each held an abhorrence of what was to be physically endured, in order to be finally at peace. Each illness was different and each death was different but common to all was that each suffered deeply and painfully and that was unnecessary.

Each one was deeply troubled by the emotional & physical impact on their family and carers, as well as themselves.

All were ready to go and expressed that wish many times in their last weeks of life.

All were in favour of voluntary assisted death, even prior to their illness.

This submission is for them, and for all of us who may find ourselves wearing the same shoes at some point.

We have the right to choose our path ; we should have sovereignty of our own body. This choice should not be for others to dictate or to imbue with their own religious, social, or cultural values.

To choose your own time & circumstances in which to die, without needless and pointless suffering to be endured, should be the right for everyone who wants it.

To those who don't support such choice I say ...

I respect your right to object on your own behalf, but not on behalf of another.

I do support the concept of putting protections in place in order to be assured that it's solely and certainly an individual's choice that is made without coercion or undue influence.

However, I do fear that too tricky and convoluted legislation may have an equally distressing impact on those people who already have enough to cope with.

Careful consideration of models in practice overseas should be made. There is no compelling evidence to support any of the wild assertions made as reasons against Voluntary Assisted Dying.

I ask you to endorse my own and your own personal right to freedom of Choice and personal autonomy.

Favourable legislation would acknowledge that right for those who wish to invoke it. I will be one!

The naysayers may confront their own reality in time to come.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Kindest regards

Marietta Le Grand

