



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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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Assisted Dying
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Dear Members of the Committee

We believe Assisted Dying should be available to a person of sound mind who is terminally ill, have been told by their doctors that they have less than one year to live. That it is that person's CHOICE to end their life because they do not want to suffer any longer with terrible pain or lose their dignity. If they are able to give themselves a lethal injection and they wish to end their life after talking with two qualified doctors and the safe guards in a Government Act approving Assisted Dying then they should be given the injection to give to themselves. If they are unable to give themselves the injection due to their infirmity of movement then they can agree to be assisted in the giving of the injection.

We had friends [REDACTED] was an electrician and worked at the [REDACTED] Many years later in his early sixties he developed a cough that was diagnosed as mesafilioma the asbestos dust disease. He was given 6 months to live. He wanted to die as his breathing got worse but no, we could not help him only hold his hand and wait for him to get pneumonia and slowly die gasping for breath. Then his wife [REDACTED] took ill afew months after his death and was diagnosed with 7 fast growing brain tumours. She was in Palliative Care. She wanted to die but again no, we could not help her.

She lost all her hair the pride of her life. She lost her speech but her mind was still working. She communicated by us asking her questions and she would raise one finger for yes and two fingers for no. She could not swallow we had to wet cotton buds and dip them in coffee because she liked the taste. She was being fed by a drip keeping her alive. She made it very plain that she wanted the drip out. Eventually after much imploring by her children and her friends the Doctor ordered the removal of the drip. It took her ten days to die and we all watched her with no hair, no speech, no dignity and a slow death. If she could have had an injection she could have given it to herself and died peacefully without all that unnecessary suffering.

As a born again Christian I believe that assisted Dying for the Terminally ill should be a human right. I do not believe the Church or any person who speak against Assisted dying have any right to force their views on the rest of the people. The people who object to Assisted Dying for the Terminally ill have every right not to choice to use Assisted Dying, but they have no right to force their voices on the rest of the people who should be given a free choice. We live in a democracy and the people should have a choice. If MP's do not want to make a decision then have a referendum and allow the poeple to vote, but the majority have already told their MPs what they want in numerous polls.

We implore you to ask your selves if you are happy to allow someone to suffer a painful and long drawn out death when they would not want that. We are in our 70's and hope that if we reach a situation of terminal illness then the laws in every State of Australia will have changed to give us a Choice of how we die and not be told no one can assist us in our suffering.

Yours Sincerely
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