



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,
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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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From: Anthony Talbot
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Monday, 5 February 2018 12:40:03 PM

Dear Committee.

Five years ago I witnessed the awful, slow, inexorable death of my friend who had Motor Neurone Disease (ALS). I helped him as best I could to enjoy his life as he physically deteriorated. He suffered no mental impairment, which made the end of his life almost more horrific. He died when he fell over in the bathroom and smashed his head on the bath. I believe this was a deliberate act on his part. Can you imagine achieving that when physically disabled and in your own home where your family are sleeping?

3 months ago I visited the Netherlands, where Euthanasia is available as a choice. My friend described how his best man, who suffered from the same disease, made the decision, once he was confined to a wheelchair, wholly reliant on carers, and anticipating death by asphyxiation, to end his life. He held a party, bid farewell to his friends and family, and died painlessly and in comfort.

My brother has now been diagnosed with MND. I would wish for him to have the right, as in the Netherlands, to make such a decision, in his right mind; to accept the inevitable and end his own life should he so choose.

I earnestly encourage you to support voluntary assisted assisted dying law reform in NSW in order to allow those suffering a terminal illness to have the right choose to end their life, and thus to alleviate some of the mental torture that they must suffer as they await a miserable, painful, death.

I am an Anglican and recognise that the majority of Anglicans, and other church goers, are in accordance with my views (2016 Australian Election Study found support from 74% of Catholics, 79% of Anglicans and 78% of Uniting Church).

Yours faithfully

Anthony Talbot


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