



**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: 199**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 9 March 2018 2:23:14 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the discussions regarding legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide. I believe this will be detrimental to our country and will place our most vulnerable members at risk. Let me explain to you why I think this. Recently my friend's father died, he was 80, he had had a full life. He had dementia, a heart attack and a fall which placed him in a nursing home and eventually in palliative care. You could say he was suffering physically but what he suffered with most was a lack of assurance of what was to happen to him when he died. He held on and died naturally but only after he had made peace with God, felt assured of where he was going and then he was able to relax and died very peacefully with family around him only hours after he had received his peace from God. Whether you believe in God or not, this man was afraid and until he found peace he was not ready to die. Many could have been tempted to end his life earlier but then he would have never felt the peace that he found. An early death would have been cruel and cut short the process of dying and grieving which was so important for this man and his family. Also recently my brother died, he was 39 years old. He took his own life. I can't begin to tell you how devastating that was for our family. His life was cut short needlessly. He had been depressed for some time and I know had contemplated suicide before. Sometimes when things seem bad you can't see what you actually have around you. My brother had suffered for some time but he had become blinded by his illness and didn't see his family there who wanted to help. Assisted suicide for people suffering with mental illness is not the answer, the pain it highlights in someone's life can be healed and for those left behind suicide whether assisted or not is devastating. So could I implore you to consider your opinion carefully as one day it might be one of your loved ones or yourself in this position. It is not our right to play God with someone else's life, the option should never be there to tempt anyone to make these choices. It goes against a doctors Hippocratic Oath to protect life, it will become an ethical minefield. So please consider the welfare of our most vulnerable in this inquiry.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AU-ACT 2615

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