



**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: 207**

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

**From:** Keith Weeks  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 9 March 2018 4:35:03 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

As someone who has suffered for 10 years now from a chronic illness, which has often left me dependent on the help of others, I find the prospect of any legalisation of euthanasia quite frightening. There is enough shame in debilitating sicknesses without adding legislation that says some of those sicknesses make your life not worth preserving as much as other lives. No matter what safeguards are put in place I also fear that people will feel pressure to 'do the right thing' by their family so as not to be a burden. I wonder too what it will do to medical professionals. Once they go from always preserving and valuing life no matter what, to accepting that some lives should be intentionally ended, it seems they become someone to fear rather than someone to trust. What if they misdiagnose someone with a terminal illness and then that person asks for help to die and avoid whatever they fear is coming? On another note, there are currently well documented examples of elder abuse in nursing homes. If some medically trained staff have trouble valuing their lives now, what will happen once the state says that it agrees that some of those lives are not worth caring for? Surely it will create an environment that increasingly justifies a lack of love and care for the weakest and most vulnerable in our society? As a weaker member of society I beg you not to push legislation that supports assisted suicide. Thank you for your time. Keith Weeks

Sincerely,  
Keith Weeks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACT, AU-ACT 2611

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