



**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: 276**

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**From:** Sarah Abramowski  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Voluntary Euthanasia  
**Date:** Friday, 16 March 2018 3:43:19 PM

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For consideration of the committee inquiring into end of life choices in the ACT,

As individuals we deserve the right to make choices regarding our own bodies. This extends to how we choose to die, were we to be in a situation where we have a terminal illness and the only thing our future holds is suffering.

I have had a frank discussion with my grandparents, who have exhibited a preference for being in favour of being able to make their own choices when it comes to their end of life. They have said that were it legal, they would want to access physician assisted suicide, were they unlucky enough to be in a position to require it.

For those of us that are ACT residents, to be able to make our own informed decision on our end of life choices, we need the ACT government to pressure the federal government to overturn the "Andrews Bill", and then legislate to legalise voluntary euthanasia. I think now that Victoria has legislated in favour of voluntary euthanasia, it is absurd that some people will have access to it and not others, purely because of where they live in Australia.

I appreciate that there are those in our community that hesitate approving of voluntary euthanasia due to concerns regarding potential abuse of assisted dying legislation, and the so called "slippery slope" argument. However, I think with the appropriate safeguards in place we can avoid these issues to protect the rights of both those that want to die with dignity, and also those that are not in a position to make their own informed choice. Other jurisdictions overseas that have previously legalised voluntary euthanasia have instituted appropriate safeguards, the process has been shown to be humane, and none of the concerns of those opposing voluntary euthanasia have come to be shown to be true.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Sarah Abramowski

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