



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

Submission Number: 467

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From: Sarah Carden
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Saturday, 24 March 2018 12:29:58 AM

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

Dear Secretary,

An article last year by journalist Paul Kelly shone some light on the ‘shadowy background’ behind the euthanasia debate between state governments and palliative care funding. The truth be told, the fact is the state government of Victoria was not willing to spend the money to fund palliative care to make the care available to all who needed it. Good palliative care would avoid the social experiment of euthanasia. Instead, Victoria’s labour premier thought the answer was to kill off the sick and dying citizens in their state. I have visited Clare Holland house and known loved ones who passed away there. This House is a beautiful place of care and compassion and dignity. I have witnessed Palliative care nurses who visit the homes of sick and dying. I witnessed nurses assisting my own father in his last weeks. These nurses are beautiful, kind. They exemplify dignity and compassion to those among us who are sick or dying. Many Canberrans benefit from these nurses. They do a wonderful service. We know that with the right medication, no one has to be in pain at the end of their life. There is no doubt that suffering can be eased with pain killers. There is no doubt places like Clare Holland house provide a much valued service. Further more, in Canberra, like Victoria, more funding is needed in the area of palliative care. Clare holland house is at capacity and requires funds to expand. As a resident of the ACT, I call on the government to fulfil its duty of care to residents and turn away from a social experiment to kill off its sick and dying. I urge the ACT government instead to do the best thing for residents and fund real care and compassion and dignity by providing enough palliative care so all can receive it who need it. The value of the human life, including the last moments of it, cannot be measured by money.

Sincerely,
Sarah Carden

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