



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
Mr Johnathan Davis (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

**Submission Number: 16**

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Johnathan Davis MLA  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Health & Community Wellbeing  
[LACommitteeHCW@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeHCW@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Mr Davis

I wish to make a submission in response to the Committee's inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are extreme because they are written as if having an abortion is a human right and there is an obligation to ensure that everyone has access to abortion services. There is no moral or legal basis for that position and the extreme terms of reference mean the inquiry is biased towards expanding abortion services.

In any event, there is no justification for the Committee to support an expansion of abortion services. There has not been any community pressure to expand services. I understand that the Government is proposing to increase the budget for services by some \$2million annually. There are much higher priorities for investment than in abortion services. That is particularly the case with respect to the ACT's Health budget which has significant gaps and needs that the community have sought for a long time such as reducing the waiting list for elective surgery and more palliative care.

In addition, Medicare and private health insurance funds are already contributing to the cost of abortion services. It has already been revealed that the multinational, 'Marie Stopes International', gets its premises for a "peppercorn rental" from the ACT Government. Support from the ACT Government is already unjustifiably high and there has been minimal transparency and accountability.

Legal protections need to be equally available for all citizens, not just those who seek an abortion. The charges brought against citizens who peacefully prayed outside the exclusion zone were totally unreasonable and unjust and the ACT Courts agreed. Those against abortion ought to be able to be free to pray against abortion anywhere and the exclusion zones should be removed.

The Committee is conducting a pro-abortion inquiry which is ignoring the views of many Canberra residents who do not support abortion and other reproductive services, let alone an expansion. Nor are priority health needs of Canberra residents being taken into account in deciding to expand abortion services.

I ask the Committee to oppose the expansion of abortion and reproductive services in the ACT.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lita Stacey

