



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023

Submission Number: 045

Date Authorised for Publication: 08 December 2023

I would like to express my support for the ACT's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023.

I am a three-time (and the current) President of the Philippine-Australian Association of the ACT and the Monaro Region.

While most Filipino migrants in Australia would consider themselves Roman Catholic, and while the Roman Catholic Church has maintained opposition against the idea of voluntary assisted dying, my personal experience has been that most people in my community would NOT object to it, and that many would actively support it.

My 90+-year-old parents died in the Philippines in just the last two years. Both my father and my mother, in my opinion, had gone on far too long in bed – in pain and loneliness – before their ultimate release. During our terrifying family journey, my siblings and I could only watch our parents shrink before our eyes, even though they had expressed a will to die before reaching the level of non-control where we had to feed them through the nose.

In addition, my first wife died of cancer in Clare Holland House, in 2003, without being afforded the morphine-free chance to take control of her life when she could no longer stand her pain.

I have read the salient parts of the Bill and am impressed with the ethical-integrity measures that even most members of my local multicultural community can agree with.