



**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

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**From:** J Tertini  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to End of Life Choices Committee  
**Date:** Saturday, 3 February 2018 5:27:34 PM

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Dear committee member,

After standing by helplessly whilst a dying relative begged me to find some way to end his indignity and suffering, I have become a passionate supporter of assisted dying. His final weeks in hospital were hell on earth for a once proud and dignified man. It was not so much the constant pain which to a certain extent was controlled with painkillers. Rather it was the continual uncontrollable emptying of his bowel and bladder tied to the knowledge that there was absolutely nothing more that doctors could do to prolong his life. This is needless psychological and physical suffering in the sure knowledge that the end is coming. The only people who gained from his continued and unnecessary suffering was the medical industry through the myriad of fees and charges.

His is not an isolated or unusual case. It is happening in hospitals around Australia every day. The elderly are particularly affected.

None of us should have a problem if a person of sound mind decides to fight on to the very end, enduring pain and suffering whether for religious beliefs or tenacity. Equally so, people who have no religious beliefs, are of a sound mind, have absolutely no hope of cure, and who desperately wish to end their lives should be able to do so.

I hope that your committee will recommend a compassionate and sensible assisted dying bill.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Tertini