Inquiry into End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission to the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT

From:

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As a rational, thinking person of 71 years of age, I would like to have the option of choosing voluntary euthanasia to end my life if I were to decide that would be the right thing for me.

I have thought a great deal about dying and what the end of my life might bring, and I would like to have a peaceful, dignified end without pain. My mother had dementia in her last four years and I would not want to go through the long-drawn-out process of dying that I saw her go through.

I strongly endorse the right of all people to have the option for voluntary euthanasia, particularly, but not only, for terminally ill and chronically ill patients. I think it is an appropriate practical and ethical option that all individuals should be able to consider and act upon if they wish to do so.

I was appalled at the action taken by the Federal Government to circumscribe the legislative powers of the ACT House of Assembly in relation to euthanasia, and I think the Euthanasia Laws Act of 1997 (the “Kevin Andrews bill”) should be repealed. I urge the ACT Government to make its best efforts to ensure this occurs, or to work out practical ways to circumvent the effect of that bill.

I believe the ACT should have the power and the opportunity to implement voluntary euthanasia legislation that meets the needs of all ACT citizens, including those who may not be terminally ill, such as people who are chronically ill.

I strongly endorse the submission from Exit International (ACT chapter) of which I am a member. I am also a member of Dying With Dignity (ACT).

Respectfully submitted

Christine I Wilson
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