



**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

**Submission Number: 360**

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The “Rommelink Rnport” which investigated “Medical Practice concerning Euthanasia” in the Netherlands stated that there were :-

- 400 examples of doctors providing patients means to kill themselves;
- 2300 cases of doctors killing upon request;
- 1040 instances of doctors killing patients without the patients’ knowledge or consent;
- 4941 cases of doctors administering lethal morphine overdoses without the patients’ consent,
- A total of 8681 deaths by euthanasia and assisted suicide.

In 45% of cases involving hospitalised patients who were involuntarily euthanised the patients’ families had no knowledge that their loved ones’ lives were deliberately terminated by doctors.

This report was commissioned in 1991. A further report in 1996 found these figures had increased by 30%. Now in 25 years Holland has moved from assisted suicide to euthanasia, from euthanasia of the terminally ill to euthanasia of the chronically ill, from euthanasia for physical illness to euthanasia for mental illness, from euthanasia for mental illness to euthanasia for psychological distress or mental suffering. And from voluntary euthanasia to involuntary euthanasia, and now even children.

It started off as just for the terminally ill, and with all the supposed safeguards, just as ours is proposed.. Euthanasia only gives doctors greater power and a licence to kill. We would have to be naïve in the extreme to believe it could not happen here.

Please be mindful of the danger when casting your vote for any proposal to legalise euthanasia..

Sincerely Yours,

Peter Howard..

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