



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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,
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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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From: Anne Hartwell
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT
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Submission against Euthanasia

I am the mother of four teenagers and also the daughter of ageing parents and parents-in-law. My family is challenged by the demands of meeting the needs of these generations. Whilst this is difficult at times it is also a wonderful support to have our parent's wisdom and our children to love and support all of us. It is a natural circle of life.

We trust and rely on good medical services. My parents and my in-laws all faced serious health conditions in the past year. I would have been even more worried about them if I thought that the doctors were not committed to supporting and treating them.

My understanding is that our doctor's make the following pledge (taken from the BioEdge site).

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing, or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;


It seems obvious that euthanasia is directly opposed to this declaration to respect the health and well-being of human beings.

I have witnessed throughout my life people with incredibly strong wills to live even in the face of severe health and medical issues. I have also witnessed the devastation caused by suicide and untimely death.

No one person should *ever* have the right to choose whether another should live or die. There is no way to dress this up. We are talking about killing another human being.

I am totally opposed to any form of euthanasia.

Anne Hartwell


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