



**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: 8**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18**

**From:** Carol Cronk  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Desirability of Voluntary Assisted Dying (EOLC)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 January 2018 1:25:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [To ACT.docx](#)  
[My sister Dawn to ACT.docx](#)

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To Select Committee Members,

My name is Carol Cronk and I am a passionate supporter of EOLC based on personal experiences within my family.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in the attached letters, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

My email address is: [REDACTED]

My postal address is: Carol Cronk

[REDACTED]  
Yamba, NSW 2464

My phone number is: [REDACTED]

Thank you for your serious consideration of this most important matters.

Best regards,  
Carol Cronk

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

To: Secretary, Select Committee  
End of life Choices in the ACT  
Legislative assembly for the ACT  
GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA, ACT 2601.

From: Carol Cronk



Yamba NSW 2464

I am writing this letter to the ACT from a community view on the desirability of voluntary Assisted dying being legislated in the ACT.

My personal reasons for being such an intense advocate towards “end of Life choices. I am of a Christian faith, and was given by my God a “free will” to choose how I live out my earthly journey, And for Him alone to be my judge at the end of my choices. During my early years I was a nurse, and experienced many Palliative care dying procedures with terminally ill dying patients in Nursing homes.

NONE emotionally traumatised me until these procedures I shared hopelessly with my parents.

MY father:

Died from Alzheimer’s. My sister and I had to endure an emotional rollercoaster with him for nearly 20 yrs. Sharing in his journey “traumatically.” For him, and to us. Leaving us daughters still today 16yrs later, with sad heart crushed emotions. Then him having to endure in the legal present end of life procedure.” The Morphine drug cocktail, which he tragically did not respond easily with, which made him scratch his chest in strips by the reaction he had to it., during his dying drug cocktail timing to cease his life. One sedation could have spared our loved father, and my sister with him such a traumatic ending.

My mother:

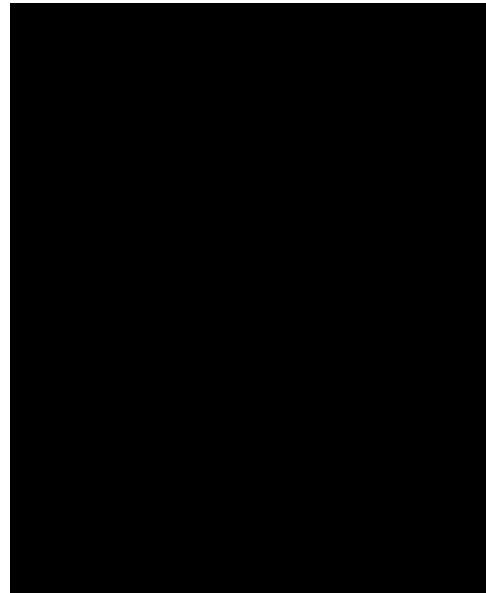
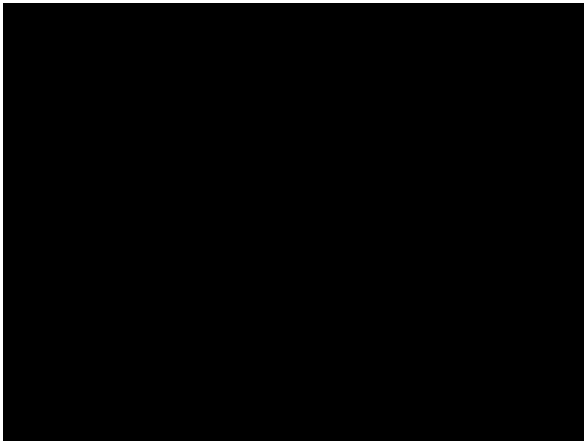
Went to live in a care Hostel. She had a fall in there broke two shoulders ribs at 92yrs. Drs advised that she would never walk again, and her broken bones could never mend due to her aged bones. Mother always asked IF she was ever bedridden to not allow her that non quality of life or be bedridden in a nursing home. All though she had verbalised to the staff and written documentation with us daughters,, her wishes were not considered or could not be fulfilled.

Her will was to not have to live out her life in that disgusting situation. Nappy bound and being baby fed. Her world in that bedridden dementias ward “which she had to live in” was simply “disgusting” “death row” is what we called it. “As it was”.

Our mother had to endure in-humane physical and emotional suffering, which me and my sister perhaps in this sharing with her, be effected emotionally for the remainder of our

years Her grandchildren ceased visiting their loved nana, due to their overwhelmed sad emotions by seeing their nana in such distress..

Pictures of memories of my mother. And the picture that remains within my entire being her pleading anxious piercing eyes pleading for” God” or us to help her. This photo was the time shared with my mother during her last six months.



My own story:

I myself ten years ago was diagnosed by a neurologist with a terminal neurological disease which in its given time will end my life in pain/suffering and loss of all my self-worth and self-dignity. I am now faced with the legal dying palliative care procedure. I also like my father and mother cannot endure strong medications as Morphine. I was given it after a major operation, and it caused me intense uncontrollable grief. So I cannot be medically be given that type of drug for pain.

I am 72yrs and desire a long life. However living in pain every day with a disability has changed my thoughts on HOW long will I choose to remain in this journey? “For as long as I can “Life is a precious gift to us, and not many terminally ill people “WANT to die. “But we have no other options. But to know we had our personal choices how to cease our lives would be such a peace within us, would give us a higher quality of life whilst were enduring our daily “challenges.’ Also for our families. MY children “five” all agree with my hope in the legal medical ending of life procedure to be changed.

Thank You  
Carol Cronk.