



**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,  
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

## Submission Cover Sheet

### End of Life Choices in the ACT

**Submission Number: 63**

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

**From:** Jon Cook  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Please support voluntary assisted dying  
**Date:** Sunday, 4 February 2018 10:56:25 AM

---

Dear Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Select Committee on End of Life Choices

I am writing to you from Sydney in the hope that my views will be helpful to your committee in making an informed decision on end of life choices.

I am aged 72 and 98% fit - when I am in Sydney, I cycle to the gym 3 times per week and do home exercises another 3. My main sport is sailboarding. I am a natural resources economist and recently finished working in Indonesia for Asian Development Bank on coral reef management evaluation.

I have no plan to take my own life. However, if I am in a situation where my life is intolerable and I have no prospects for recovery, I will certainly kill myself. If I cannot obtain medical assistance to achieve this, I will take responsibility myself, with the quite serious risk of something going wrong. I therefore implore you to support voluntary assisted dying with (at least) a 12-month life expectancy limit. I can understand that some of you may not approve of VAD, and of course you will be quite entitled to live your last years in pain or dementia if you wish.

But in my opinion you have no right to prevent those of us who do believe in a dignified death from killing ourselves, with professional help if we wish. I hope that in future, national VAD legislation will pass with 100% support and abstention, the latter as I would have to accept that those with particular religious beliefs or other reasons for opposing assisted dying will not support it. But equally they should not vote against it. Control of both our life and our death should be our human rights. The same I would have to say goes for your committee members with negative viewpoints.

More than three-quarters of Victorian and NSW residents support assisted dying (and only around 10% oppose). It is time that the national government demonstrates that Australia is still a modern and progressive state, accede to the popular will and passes appropriate legislation!

To those of you who support VAD, I apologise for taking your time (if you have read this far) and hope your views will prevail in committee and in parliament. I will await your report with interest.

Yours in hope  
Jonathan Cook

██████████  
North Sydney  
NSW 2060  
02 ██████████

Now at airport, leaving to work on projects in Fiji and Cambodia, back mid-May.