



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: 209

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

To the Committee

We would like to raise our concerns in relation to the ACT Assembly considering introducing 'assisted suicide' (State sanctioned murder) in the ACT. We would like to highlight the positive experiences with good palliative care, take Clare Holland House for example...consideration should be made to expand this place. If euthanasia is legalised in the ACT, it is very unlikely that palliative care will receive adequate funding in the future.

We also have concerns over the inevitable outcome of 'elder abuse'. Euthanasia obviously makes it easier for family members to pressure the elderly to end their lives early. It also creates the conditions in which the elderly are more likely to feel like they are a burden and that 'voluntary-suicide' is 'the right thing to do'.

I would also like to note the AMA statement on its many objections to assisted suicide, but advocating other ideas which is found at

<https://ama.com.au/system/tmf/documents/AMA%20Position%20Statement%20on%20Euthanasia%20and%20Physician%20Assisted%20Suicide%202016.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=45402>

We are firm believers in the sanctity of life and all efforts should be made to help ease pain in those unfortunately who are suffering from a terminal illness not making it easier to kill them. There are no 'safeguards that can provide for the 'safe killing' of people. We (being all of us, including the medical profession) have an ethical and moral duty to care for dying patients so that death is allowed to occur in comfort and with dignity, not allow an 'assisted' form of suicide.

Yours sincerely

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