Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr Eloise Bright, and I would like to make a contribution to the inquiry on End of Life Choice.

I am strongly in favour the ACT being allowed self determination with regards to Voluntary Euthanasia, especially now that it has been legalised elsewhere in Australia.

I personally am a strong advocate in favour of Voluntary Euthanasia. I have been through seeing my grandfather die a slow and painful death from kidney failure, where he suffered for months in pain and bedridden. He, my grandmother and I all wished he had been given the option of making a choice as to whether he wanted to end that suffering.

I hope that in the future were I or any of my loved ones in the same situation we would be able to make an informed decision and determine the way in our end of life was managed.

I work as a vet, and have a strong interest in end of life care for my patients. For a lot of cases, with appropriate care and management they can maintain a comfortable and good quality of life, but for many eventually they get to the stage where no treatment is adequate in maintaining an adequate quality of life, and for these patients we are lucky enough to end their suffering with euthanasia. I hope that I might be as lucky one day as to be allowed the same rights as my animal patients.

The methods at our disposal in which we (veterinarians) perform euthanasia are very humane, and I have no doubt that the practices that would be employed by human physicians would be able to maintain at least as good a protocol to make the act of euthanasia in people as caring and comfortable as it could be in our pets.

With Regards,

Dr Eloise Bright.

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