



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

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From: David Aked
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Support of End-of-life choice
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 6:22:34 PM

I'm writing in to support a persons right to die with dignity.

I tend to try to avoid emotive language, but this is an emotional subject.

I've watched 2 people die from cancer who should have died weeks before. Instead, they had to suffer through to the end.

We oppose torture (quite rightly), yet a person dying from lung-cancer, at least in my grandfathers case, it was like him being water-boarded to death by his own body for the last couple of weeks.

My mother had bowel cancer that eventually spread to her brain. Her body kept holding on, as she was such a tough bugger, but she was 'gone' long ago. We lived with a breathing corpse (only way to describe it) for a few days. Was she in pain? Who knows. But it still worries me to this day. Was she in pain and could I have done something to end it sooner?

I appreciate that there needs to be guards and failsafes in place. But we also must be mindful that many of these decisions can be quite sudden. In both cases above it was days to weeks. Red tape and bureaucracy could ruin all decisions. No point in agreeing that it should be supported if there is a 6 month waiting list.

Let people fight the good fight. Then when the battle is over, let them go whilst still being able to say "I love you, goodbye".

Dave Aked