



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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Select committee on end-of-life choices in the ACT
ACT Legislative Assembly
Canberra ACT

Dear Committee Members

I write to oppose any move to allow euthanasia or assisted suicide in the ACT. My reasons are as follows:

- In the long term it will place pressure on the elderly and infirm to prematurely end their life because they feel they are a burden to their family and society.
- It will place doctors in direct opposition to their Hippocratic oath.
- Overseas experience shows that we would be naïve to think that any safeguards to ensure that only the terminally ill can access euthanasia or assisted suicide will be changed to allow ever broader classes of people to access them.
- It will undermine the efforts of palliative care providers and the resources provided to facilities such as Clare Holland House.

As a society we should be helping the infirm and terminally ill to live the time left to them to the fullest. We should be investing more in modern, well resourced palliative care, so that people can end their lives with dignity and hope.

In 2011 a very close friend spent his final 5 weeks in Clare Holland House, which was a positive and hope-filled time for him. The quality of care was such that he could spend precious time with family and close friends without serious pain. I cannot speak highly enough of the professionalism and kindness of the very special staff at Clare Holland House who made this possible.

Please put government effort and resources into supporting palliative care rather than “assisted dying”.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anthony Ringrose-Voase