



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES IN THE ACT

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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 10

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

From: Paul Bennett
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Wednesday, 3 January 2018 7:49:06 AM

I am a 76-year-old Australian, here for over 50 years, and I also lived in Europe for 25 years and Hong Kong for 11 years. I am well educated, intelligent and a retired senior Queensland Government administration officer.

I support VAD laws in the ACT and throughout Australia. If I suffer from a dreadful illness, I alone must be the only person who has the right to decide how and when I end my suffering. My family support my decision, my advance health directive demands it, and no other person or body can possibly be allowed to interfere with my decision.

I watched my brother die of cancer, in severe pain and misery. He himself, his wife, his son, and our mother all wanted his death to be medically hastened to spare him the misery and indignity of his final two weeks of life, but the law prevented it.

I witnessed the horror of the last two years of "life" for a friend with "locked-in" stroke symptoms, a man who had expressed his wish for his life to be medically ended if he ever got to that condition, and who's wife supported the idea, but the law prevented it.

I have written an advance health directive that instructs doctors to hasten my death under a specific set of circumstances, but the law in all states except Victoria will prevent my wishes, which have been endorsed by all the family I have left, from being followed.

The VAD Bill in Victoria has been passed and, as all Australians should have the same human rights regardless of which part of this country they live in, there is no logical reason why adult residents of the ACT should be denied the choice of VAD.

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Paul Bennett

Address: [REDACTED] Highland Park, Qld 4211

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone Aust: [REDACTED]

Phone Int: [REDACTED]

