



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: 55

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

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To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: End of life choices submission
Date: Saturday, 3 February 2018 3:57:56 PM

To Secretary,
LA Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT, Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Your terms of reference points I have commented on below:

1 palliative care etc

My partner has cancer which has metastasised into the spine, ribs, hips, legs etc. Some of the symptoms and treatments create burning bone pain, heavy sweating for hours, exhaustion, aching joints, cold sweats, pain treatment every 8 hours and 27 tablets a day for treatment and symptoms. Lately this has gone up to 41 tablets a day which makes for a drowsy, slightly head fuddled state. Palliative care might work for some but it isn't working in this case: pain is still severe and the disease progresses. Members of committees should imagine themselves into the shoes of people dying like this. It is amazing how many politicians can empathise with a cause once a family member is involved...

2 ACT will become one of the most caring communities if it passes this legislation

3 risks can be managed as overseas examples show. Do you not engage with legislation because of risk? If that were the practice, no legislation would ever pass. Risk management is the key.

4 take the best points from other assisted dying schemes and apply them to the ACT legislation

5

i) Christians will lobby you, quoting the bible saying we should not kill people. Look at the history of the church - the torture and killings of women in the Middle ages, the Crusades in the Middle East and recently, I witnessed the torture implements used by the Catholic church on South Americans in Chile during the Spanish inquisition. The church has a long history of deliberate killings including burning, torture and beheadings (Henry 8 and Elizabeth1 just two examples of heads of Christian churches who employed beheadings!)

ii) Over 70% of Australians want this option. We are kind to our pets when they are suffering. It is time to be kind to our loved ones. It is time legislators followed the wishes of the people.

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