



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

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From: jhbrook
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This is a submission to the End of Life Choices Select Committee, from John Brook of [REDACTED], Yarralumla, 2600: phone [REDACTED], email [REDACTED]

I have long been a supporter of voluntary assisted dying, and continue to be so, as I age. In the ACT this option is, of course, currently prohibited; and the removal of that prohibition is a first step. I believe that the individual has the right to determine what is done to their body - not only in normal medical matters (where this principle is generally accepted) but in the bigger question of the future length of their life: I cannot see that there is any difference in principle when one comes to that bigger question. Experience in those jurisdictions which permit voluntary assisted dying has clearly demonstrated that the usual objections to it have not been borne out in practice. It is open to any medical person to decide whether to participate, and some will prefer not to. There are of course strong objections to all of this from people of religious convictions, to which they are fully entitled; but I cannot accept that they should determine the outcome for the rest of the community. What is being sought is the right to access to voluntary assisted dying for those who seek it.

J.H.Brook



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