



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: 221

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

To the committee,

Recently when I heard of the legalisation of euthanasia in Victoria it had me thinking if such an option was available to my family over 15 years ago for terminal diagnosis of my mother.

Being only 10 years old at the time it's safe to say I was pretty naive to the whole situation surrounding my mother and her medical treatment, however I was able to enjoy an "unexpected" extended time with her which was longer than her original diagnosis, if euthanasia was an option I'm chilled to the core to think it could have been shorter.

Living just 40 minutes outside of the ACT in a small town of NSW the support of those through the hospice who closely lived with us through mums final months at home was second to none, on top of that our support from the community and close friends is something I will treasure forever. It never crossed my mind that mum should "be at peace" or "not suffering" - who is to know that life after death is this peaceful and painless place anyway? She never lost Hope and remained strong through her physical decline and never made me second-guess her fate, she held onto a Hope that passes all of our worldly understanding.

Sure I miss my mother and absolutely want her here to help me be the woman I am today, I'm devastated she was not there to see me walk down the isle and will not get to meet her future grandchildren - but it is for my good.

I believe that my mothers terminal illness had a massive impact to make me the person I am today, it gave me the Hope that I carry with me daily and even more so through those last few weeks of her life - understanding and succumbing to the soon reality, seeing the friability of the human flesh and beginning to understand that there is a purpose for everything and it is for our good.

It is for this very personal reason that I ask that we do not give ourselves over to the evil, selfish and snowballing desires of euthanasia.

That we instead:

- Hold on to our Hope
- Rely and support our medical and hospice providers.
- Support immediate family and friends
- Support, inform and engage our communities.

Thank you for your time,

Tracey Preston.

, Yass, NSW