



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: Elizabeth Montgomery
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Re:Dying with Dignity
Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018 2:50:46 PM

To ACT Select Committee.

Herewith my submission to your inquiry. Years ago, when my brothers and I were teen ages we watched our mother die (at home) with ovarian cancer. Unfortunately we three all inherited the BRCA2 gene and have passed it down to yet another generation.

My elder brother suffered from bladder cancer but coped for some years until contacting PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) a neurological condition. After several years his partner realised she could no longer manage him at home and he was admitted to a nursing home. Sadly for him his mental capacity was not affected and he loathed his situation so took matters into his own hands. The decision to starve himself was terrible for everyone but he felt it was the only possible solution. He died after 17 long days.

My younger brother battled for some years with prostate cancer, and endured surgery, treatments, medications and numerous hospital stays. Then he developed breast cancer - more surgery, treatments, pain and suffering. He finally died in hospital.

Now it is my turn. Over some years I have had two mastectomies and surgery for a tumour in what remains of my chest. Now the cancer has metastasised into my bones and will spread. I am now 86 and to add to my woes I am going blind. My quality of life has plummeted in tandem with the deterioration of my sight. I can no longer read or watch tv or pursue any of my favourite hobbies or outdoor activities.

I am fortunate to have great family support

but there will come a time when I want to have

control and be allowed to end my life with some dignity.

As you can see from my writing, I know about "bad deaths". I beg anyone with any compassion to understand why dying with some dignity with assisted suicide is of real importance to those of us who suffer terminal illness. I am a strong capable woman and demand the right to die at the time and place of my choosing. I should not be forced by others to endure the indignities suffered by my brothers. Yours faithfully

(Mrs) Elizabeth Montgomery.