



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: Jordan Serena
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Assisted dying - personal experience
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Hi

I was just on FB and noticed a post concerning assisted dying and its potential use within the ACT.

My personal experiences come from my father-in-law (in Germany), who died in 2008; and my mother, who died in August 2016. Both suffered horrendously in their final months and had no quality of life. That to me is the core issue here - if the person is mentally able to make decisions and there is no chance of a recovery, if they decide to take their own lives via appropriate assisted dying legislation, then in my view it is up to us as a country or territory to allow it. I do not consider this a suicide in the strict legal or moral term that some organisations will argue - this is a core decision which an individual should be allowed to make, in the same way as they have chosen to live their lives.

In a very similar vein to the equality in marriage, where it is not up to me as a heterosexual to dictate to a loving gay pair whether they should or should not marry under the law and enjoy the same benefits I do from being in a loving relationship, both personally and legally; I firmly believe that if there is no way for a person to get better, then assisted dying should be a legal option for a sick individual.

We as a society allow for the euthanasia of animals when it is clear that continued life is affected and provides no further quality. This statement is not meant to be offensive - I am not suggesting that a life of a person is worth less or equal to that of an animal - but what I am trying to state is that as a society we can recognise when a being is suffering and can no longer enjoy their life, based on their condition. It allows for a passing of an individual on their terms; with dignity; surrounded by their loved ones in a celebration of their life at a time when they still possess a degree of control; and choice. We make the choice for our pets or animals, but I find it incongruent we cannot do the same for ourselves as human beings.

Happy to discuss - drop me a line should you require further information.

Kind Regards

Jordan