



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**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

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The Committee Secretary  
Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT  
Office of the Legislative Assembly  
196 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT 2601  
[LACommitteeEOL@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeEOL@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Madam or Sir,

I write as one already near the end of his life, aged 89. I am in good health.

Like many others, I expect the same freedom of personal choice now as I have enjoyed throughout my life, and I believe that right extends to all citizens.

When I was secretary of Dying With Dignity ACT I carefully researched the effects of legislation permitting elective dying in those jurisdictions that allowed it and found no evidence of abuse of personal autonomy in any of them.

Such jurisdictions are growing in number, the latest being our own State of Victoria.

Last year a useful overview was provided by Andrew McGee, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology. I provide the reference below.

It is notable that where legal, few make use of that freedom. But having that choice greatly helps the needy few.

In my view the Victorian legislation is excessively cautious, and I believe that time and experience will eventually confirm that. Nevertheless, it is an honest measure to give citizens the right to choose.

I strongly support the introduction of similar legislation in our ACT jurisdiction.

I am aware of the unequal structural rights of Australian Territories as opposed to States, but that reform needs to be triggered by such a responsible social and legal reform as this.

Sincerely,

Ian Hughes

McGee, Andrew 2017 In places where it is legal, how many are ending their lives using euthanasia?  
*The Conversation*, 3 March.