



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

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Tuesday, 6 February 2018 10:51:33 PM
Attachments: [Catherine and Luke.jpg](#)

To: Mark Taylor,

My name is [REDACTED] and I reside with my husband [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Toongabbie NSW. [REDACTED] and I are 29 years of age and we have been together for 9 years. Up until July 2017, [REDACTED] and I were living a very happy and healthy life together. In 2012, we both completed our university studies at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] commenced employment in the [REDACTED] field and I commenced employment as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. In 2013 we brought our first home together and later married in 2014. While our lives were busy we were extremely happy and we were looking forward to our bright future together.

In July 2017, [REDACTED] commenced complaining of severe headaches. His GP thankfully referred him to complete an MRI. It was during this MRI scan that a brain tumor 6 cm in width and 8 cm in length was located in the frontal lobe of [REDACTED] brain. [REDACTED] was immediately admitted into Westmead Hospital and underwent surgery several days later. [REDACTED] was diagnosed with an incurable and terminal form of Brain Cancer, Stage 3 Anaplastic Astrocytoma. He was told by the neurosurgeon that he may not live to see his 30th Birthday. [REDACTED] is due to celebrate his 30th Birthday on the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] this year.

The news we received on this day was undoubtedly devastating. The many years [REDACTED] and I thought we had together were gone. Instead these many years have been replaced with a very bleak future of [REDACTED] and I sharing at most a couple more years together while battling brain cancer.

As [REDACTED] wife and partner in life, I feel an enormous responsibility towards [REDACTED]. This responsibility relates to a number of different things. I want [REDACTED] to receive the upmost best medical treatment and care. [REDACTED] is currently being treated at Westmead Hospital and has completed 6 weeks of daily radiation therapy and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. I do believe [REDACTED] is receiving the best medical treatment and I have faith in my abilities to care for [REDACTED]. I want the last years of [REDACTED] life to be fulfilling. [REDACTED] is surrounded by a loving family and number of friends. Together I know, we will make these years fulfilling. Ultimately, when the time comes I want [REDACTED] to have a peaceful and pain free death. At the present time, this is unfortunately the one thing I can not guarantee my husband.

Over the past 6 months I have read everything there is to know about Brain Cancer. I have joined online support groups which allow me to communicate with other carers looking after loved ones diagnosed and dying from Brain Cancer. Like all cancer, Brain Cancer is an absolute insidious disease. It causes a loss of cognitive and physical functioning. It destroys

quality of life and it can ultimately result in a painful, horrible death. Yes, there is palliative care. However I continually read stories on the brain cancer support groups to which I am part of where despite the assistance of palliative care, patients dying from Brain Cancer continue to experience deaths that they did not wish for. I do not want [REDACTED] to have a bad death. I do not want [REDACTED] to die in pain. The only way I can guarantee my husband a pain free death is if the law is reformed in NSW to allow volunteer assisted dying.

Mr Taylor, I am asking you today to consider supporting the voluntary assisted dying law reform in NSW. If this law were to be passed, [REDACTED] and I would be provided with the comfort of knowing that when the time comes, [REDACTED] will have choices. When you are diagnosed with terminal cancer, you really are not given many choices. Please consider supporting the voluntary assisted dying law reform in NSW, and assist my husband in gaining the choice to die peacefully.

I appreciate the time you have taken in reading this.

I am happy and willing to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Toongabbie NSW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

