



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: Joan
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Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT

Joan Sallecchia

Wanniassa

To this committee I wish to make a submission which focuses on current practices utilised in the medical community to assist a person to exercise their preferences in managing the end of their life, including Palliative care.

I write as a Registered Nurse, I worked in Clare Holland House and Home Base Palliative Care for over 20 years, nursing terminally ill patients in Clare Holland House and also in their own home.

: There is so much healing within families in the terminal stage of their illness which is beneficial for both the patient & their family.

: If Euthanasia were legalised the elderly and frail who feel that they are a burden on their families would possibly ask for euthanasia, even though deep down they would not want it.

: I have occasionally seen patients who have physical symptoms ask for euthanasia, but when given good palliative care and the symptoms are alleviated they have expressed their gratitude for not receiving euthanasia

: I have read in Holland where voluntary euthanasia occurs, many people have had their lives shortened unnecessarily.

Joan Sallecchia