



**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: Kim Wheeler
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Submission for the inquiry about voluntary assisted dying and end of life choices in the ACT.
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 9:43:06 PM

Submission for the inquiry about voluntary assisted dying and end of life choices in the ACT.

I support the inquiry into voluntary assisted dying after watching my father suffer in palliative care. I think there is a place for medical practitioners to assist these patients when all other medical treatments have been exhausted.

It was the end of February 2007, my father had been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2000. He had undergone numerous research treatments with the Canberra Hospital, and unfortunately his time was running out. He called the family into his bedroom and explained the end was near and that he had decided to go to the Clare Holland House (hospice).

He was not in there long (maybe 3-4 days), but it felt dragged out. He had made the decision to go to the hospice, yet was unable to make a full decision on the way he went out, and that it then became a waiting game on death. Yes we want to spend as much time as possible with our loved ones, but what is this time when they are suffering with intermittent pain waiting to take their last breath to finally be in peace. Wouldn't it be better to allow them to make that decision. Given the years on various therapies most patients wanting an assisted death are those which have exhausted all medical treatments. Patients entering palliative care (from my experience) are just made comfortable with various pain medications - essentially drugged with a number off opioids until they take their last breathe, this could be days and even weeks. A dragged out death brings so much pain to the family.

Please allow assisted dying under medical guidance.

Regards

Kim Wheeler

mob: [REDACTED]