



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,
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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

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From: Patrick H
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Choices in the ACT
Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 4:07:04 PM

Dear Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT,

I am a student at the Canberra University. I do not support any steps to make euthanasia available in Canberra. As a native of Canberra and now a voter in this Territory, I think that the Legislative Assembly should be very concerned about looking towards other Health issues that need attention.

As a teenager engaged in a number of sporting activities, I would hope that the patient waiting time in hospital clinics would be able to be reduced. From talking to my mates, I know that the waiting time for some operations in the public and private system is long, and that the number of specialists in Canberra is limited. Some of my family have had to travel to Sydney for surgical attention.

One of my student activities with my college was to attend Malkara to assist handicapped children. I learned that there was always a waiting list to gain a place in Malkara. As I think back on these visits, I wonder at the possibilities of the request for euthanasia (if available) for these children at their parents request. Parents who were most times very loving but often stressed could attempt to influence doctors to open a path to euthanasia. I even have had some contemporaries who have had to cope with very stressful situations (divorce of parents; parent, grand-parent or sibling death) who needed psychological or psychiatric assistance which was not easily found. The suicide rate in young males is scary and I think that if euthanasia (killing) was regarded as "legal" that could be a strong signal to young men and women that suicide (killing) is not such a horrible thing after all – and it is legal!

The statistics of people who are victims of road accidents; any person facing long periods of rehabilitation; physically and mentally handicapped people – all these people now have great positive goals presented to them. The alternative in the society that crosses over to offering "euthanasia" (killing) as another option is too sad to think about.

Your sincerely,

Patrick Hartwell