



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: phil
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: End of Life Choices
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To the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT ,

I am frantically trying to send this. I can't do it. I read an email from the Canberra Declaration just a while ago and so I have no time left. Not that all the time in the world would necessarily enable me to write something.

I have read a little about Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia but I have not a present capability to speak or write about such things. but I am opposed to their being legalised.

I just want to speak against killing people, and especially those who are most vulnerable. If you will accept my copying of some of the Canberra Declaration's submission, as my submission, I can ask no more and would be grateful you have.

Doctors need to operate with absolute repugnance to killing their patients. The Australian Medical Association president, Dr Michael Gannon, has publicly stated that "doctors should have no role in intentionally ending a patient's life." As a medical professional, he is not alone in saying this. Dr Gannon points out that of the 109 medical associations representing different countries, 107 oppose euthanasia.

What about "scope creep"?

In considering end of life choices, Australia has the advantage of observing what has happened in countries where euthanasia and assisted suicide have already been legalised. One very sobering observation is that wherever these practices have been legalised, they have expanded to include more groups of vulnerable people. This unintended and apparently unavoidable outcome is now described as "scope creep". This is where the criteria for state-sanctioned killing grows to include non-terminal illnesses, psychological disorders, especially depression, and even the euthanasia of children.

Canada, however, has become the prime example of how these practices cannot be controlled by law. Last year Health Canada reported that there were nearly 2,000 deaths by euthanasia in the first year of its legalisation. It seems that the number deaths by euthanasia each year in Canada will quickly surpass the Netherlands and Belgium where it has been legal since 2002 and 2003 respectively. A push to extend the 2016 Canadian law is now underway in the courts.

Thank you, if you are considering my submission. And if you aren't, I still thank you for your time,

*philwith **JESUS***

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