



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: Shannon West
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: Submission regarding Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Thursday, 8 February 2018 3:09:23 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shannon West, and I am a local vet working here in Canberra.

Often as a vet, when I am faced with having to put a family's cherished pet to sleep, their owners say to me "This must be the worst part of your job". Actually, I tell them, it is one of the best parts of my job. As a vet, I am afforded the right to help relieve suffering in our patients where humane euthanasia is the kindest option available to a beloved family pet. I tell people that this is not a right afforded to my human medical practitioner colleagues. I would much rather be in my shoes, than in the shoes of a human GP, watching patients forced to suffer through the pain and indignity of a prolonged death. One that we wouldn't tolerate our pets being made to endure.

As you might surmise from this, I, like most of my veterinary colleagues, am a strong supporter of the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia. It is well past time that we give those in our community, who wish to be given the same dignity that we afford our pets, this right.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Shannon West

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