



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: Janet Clifford
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I want to add my support for this enquiry to include not just good Palliative Care, but to enact laws to give those who are suffering their last months and years of a debilitating illness, the opportunity to ask to be peacefully released at a time of their choosing. This is well beyond even the new Victorian legislation and asks for those who may not actually be dying but are still suffering Life - high spinal chord injuries, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone disease, very uncomfortable cancers - where it's a daily battle to exist -etc These people, if they are old enough and not depressed, or otherwise mentally ill, need to have their requests for release, respected.

I have formed this view from many years of working as a Physiotherapist in hospitals at the critical end and seen the suffering that people go through, where treatment is extended and extended, because it is available, whether worthwhile or not. It's a "slippery slope" of it's own, where a quality of life is eroded to the point where a person becomes unable to knowingly, consent.

I know that I would not be able to bear the things I've seen practically every day of my working life. I would want a legal, peaceful end if I asked for it. Doctors need the protection of the Law, to comply with such requests.

Such a privilege is presently unrealistic, especially as the ACT cant enact such progressive legislation without it being cancelled by a socially conservative Federal Government, yet I couldn't let this opportunity pass without adding my voice to the hope that one day, this will come about as more and more people start to demand it, as they see loved ones suffer and go through it themselves.

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Sent from Windows Mail