



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,
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 203

Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18

From: Llywellyn O'Brien
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Friday, 9 March 2018 4:00:27 PM

Re: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry

Dear Secretary,

I spend a few hours a week visiting people in hospital, many of whom are drawing near to death, and I am gravely concerned about the impact of any changes to the law which would enable doctors or others to take the lives of patients or to provide means by which a patient might take their own. Many of those I spend time with each week are deeply vulnerable and I dread the position some of them will find themselves in were the use of death as a treatment to become legal. Like anyone else who has spent time in our hospitals I have also been made painfully aware of the abuse some patients suffer at the hands of family, carers and even hospital staff and am convinced that this would lead to at least a few, and perhaps many more, people being killed, or assisted to kill themselves in situations where genuine choice is lacking. It seems compelling to me that any law that risks even one such death should be rejected, let alone laws which will, even if protections often spoken of are firm and taken very seriously indeed, doubtlessly lead to many more than one instance such as this. My personal experience with the dying, along with careful reflection beyond this, urges me to plead that any move towards killing and/or suicide becoming systematic aspects of our healthcare system be abandoned in favour of greater spending on social workers, pleasant and livable medical facilities, quality in terms of food and so forth in hospitals entertainment for the sick, staffing which will reduce the discomforts of time in hospital and ultimately on more hospice spaces and so on so that those coming to the end of their lives can do so with real dignity and not at their own hands nor those of one meant to care for them.

Sincerely,
Llywellyn O'Brien

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Fadden, AU-ACT 2904

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