



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

Submission Number: 323

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From: Gabrielle van der Spek
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 1:59:08 PM

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

Dear Secretary,

In their paper: “VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA AND ‘ASSISTED DYING’ IN TASMANIA: A RESPONSE TO GIDDINGS & MCKIM”(October 2013), Hannah Graham & Jeremy Prichard give a consolidated well-researched academic response to The Honourable Lara Giddings (MP) and The Honourable Nicholas McKim’s paper: ‘VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING - A PROPOSAL FOR TASMANIA’ (2013). Giddings and McKim advocate the legalisation of ‘assisted dying’ in Tasmania, whereas Graham and Prichard strongly warn against it. Through detailed research in Tasmania and internationally, Graham and Prichard explore the following key issues: • Multiple formal bodies and jurisdictions around the world have carefully considered and decided against legalising voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide. • Where it has been legalised (as in Belgium, the Netherlands & eg. Oregon in the USA), there is evidence of ‘safeguards’ being ignored. • Where legalised, there is evidence of vulnerable people being euthanased without their explicit request or informed consent. • There are risks of voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide negatively affecting the doctor-patient relationship. • Doctors, health care workers and family members may suffer unforeseen stress after being involved in voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide. • If legalised, the eligibility criteria for who can access voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide is open to contest and risks being expanded to include vulnerable people. • Many disability advocates and organisations around the world oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide. I am strongly opposed to voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide for all of the above reasons, but especially because of the potential for vulnerable persons to become victims of what others may deem their life to be worth or not.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle van der Spek

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