



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**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: 396**

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**From:** Anna Molan  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to enquiry into end-of-life choices  
**Date:** Friday, 23 March 2018 7:23:03 AM

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Dear Committee Chair

I would like my views to be considered as part of the enquiry into end-of-life choices in the ACT.

I do not want to see legislation to allow voluntary assisted dying, or physician-assisted suicide, as Dr Michael Gannon put it recently. Broadly, I agree with Dr Gannon's position and that outlined by Dr Karen Hitchcock in various Schwartz publishing outlets. I believe people's pain should be addressed as a first priority, and where relief of intolerable pain has the secondary effect of accelerating death, that is acceptable to me, obviously with relevant consent.

I believe there should be a huge boost to the funding and quality of palliative care, and that profoundly disabled people should be surrounded with care and love from the community, so that early death does not become the only effective "therapy" conceivable to them. I believe that liberalised euthanasia laws will lead to pressure on the weakest in our society to "end the burden" on their families and opt to die early. In other words, I believe there is merit to the "slippery slope" argument. As a society, we score poorly on our care of the vulnerable, especially the elderly, and I don't want it to become easier for us to evade our responsibilities to ensure their well-being.

Further, I do not want medical personnel to be burdened with the responsibility to assist someone to end their life.

I know what it is to care for a person who is gravely ill and eventually dies of that illness: I accompanied my husband on that journey. I also know that there are times when the distress a loved one feels is almost overwhelming. In that situation, nobody feels they have much control, as the disease won't allow it: we have to trust the health system we are immersed in to give us the best care possible. I want a health system that is more worthy of that trust, with better resources and funding, not a liberalised euthanasia law.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Yours sincerely

Anna Molan

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