



**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: 445**

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**From:** Daniel Hartwell  
**To:** [LA Committee - EOLC](#)  
**Subject:** Select Committee of ACT Government on End of Life Choices.  
**Date:** Friday, 23 March 2018 4:08:29 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

It has surprised me that you would consider changing the Law in the ACT to allow some people, mainly doctors, to kill other people. Most other laws that governments deal with are to protect its citizens and allow commerce and life to progress peacefully. I would ask you respectfully not to bring in this law.

During the last Christmas vacation, I was lucky enough to travel on a student exchange to France (Brest) where a family took care of me for nearly 12 weeks. My adoptive mother was a journalist, her husband, a doctor and her two sons completed the household. My French did improve but one night at dinner Doc Dad brought up the subject of euthanasia. I was unsure of the meaning, but he soon explained in simple French that whatever the Dutch and the Belgians thought of it, whatever fancy name they gave it, euthanasia was the killing of a person. He was horrified to think that some members of his profession could stoop to such a thing. He explained that there had been a recent case in Holland where a patient with dementia had to be restrained by her family so that a deadly injection could be given to her.

Journalist Mother mentioned that some states in the USA had also given the green light to euthanasia and in Canada, a prisoner who was serving a life-sentence was applying for euthanasia. Doc Dad said that was reintroducing capital punishment which most countries around the world had abolished! I was stunned – that is capital punishment.

I have had some medical problems (not death threatening) and those who have cared for me in hospital have been so good to me – kind and thoughtful. Everyone would be affected by a law to kill the vulnerable.

My 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is soon so I will be on the electoral roll before the Committee has to report. I hope you will persuade the government of this lovely city, not to change the law and bring in euthanasia.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Hartwell.

