



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.

Shane Rattenbury MLA
Chair
Select Committee on Privileges
Legislative Assembly of the ACT
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2601

Dear Mr Rattenbury,

Shane

Privileges matter – Request for details

The Select Committee thanks you for your letter of the 15 May 2018.

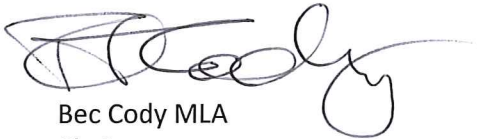
The Committee has noted your advice regarding the setting up by the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) of a facility on the ACL website through which members of the public were able to make submissions to the Select Committee's inquiry.

The Select Committee asks I advise you as follows:

1. The Select Committee on End of Life Choices has received 493 submissions as of 17 May 2018. One submission was received from the Australian Christian Lobby. No other submissions were identified as being associated with the Australian Christian Lobby. 86 submissions were identified as being facilitated through the website *One Click Politics (OCP)*. Each submission received via OCP contained the name and full residential address of an individual submitter. Each submission received via OCP had a unique email address in the 'from' field, apparently belonging to an individual submitter. When the Select Committee Secretariat acknowledged submissions by responding to each individual message, the 'reply' function called up the relevant individual email address, not OCP.
2. The Select Committee prefers to avoid use of the language 'favourable' and 'unfavourable' in responding to question 2. 62 submissions received via OCP expressed support for investment in palliative care services. All 86 submissions received via OCP expressed a viewpoint against voluntary assisted dying.
3. The Select Committee secretariat provided all submissions received on the Inquiry to the Committee. The secretariat drew to the Committee's attention that a group of submissions were associated with the OCP website. The Committee considered each submission to the Inquiry individually before deciding whether to authorise for publication. Records show that 85 of the submissions associated with the OCP were authorised for publication; one was kept confidential at the request of the recipient.

4. There was no discernible obstruction to the Inquiry caused by the submissions received from OCP. The Committee was aware that an unidentified lobby group or advocacy group had used OCP to invite members or supporters to contribute to the Inquiry. There are indications that Exit International had also contacted supporters inviting them to contact the Inquiry (though by different means), as the language 'I endorse the submission of Exit International, of which I am a member' is used in multiple submissions.
5. The Select Committee is unable to make any comments at this time on the utility of receiving submissions from a third party website (such as OCP). The Committee will note that there was a significant number of submissions made by OCP, 86 of 493 submissions, and all of these expressed a single view. The Committee will leave anything further as a matter for examination by the Select Committee on Privileges

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bec Cody', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Bec Cody MLA
Chair
22 May 2018