



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,
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Submission Cover Sheet

End of Life Choices in the ACT

Submission Number: 256

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From: Peter Laughlin
To: [LA Committee - EOLC](#)
Subject: I am an ACT resident, here is my submission to the inquiry
Date: Friday, 16 March 2018 8:47:33 AM

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

Dear Secretary,

I'm just taking the time to write a short submission against the introduction of legislation relating to assisted dying schemes in the ACT. As a society we have the ethical obligation to provide good quality end of life care to the community. This must have at its forefront a strong palliative care system that provides pain relief and comfort to those in their last days. I am concerned that by legislating 'assisted dying' the expectation will be the 'norm' rather than the exception for those at end of life. I note that the AMA in its Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide report has stated that "As a matter of the highest priority, governments should strive to improve end of life care for all Australians through: the adequate resourcing of palliative care services and advance care planning;" and among other things, "increased development of, and adequate resourcing of, enhanced palliative care services, supporting general practitioners, other specialists, nursing staff and carers in providing end of life care to patients across Australia." This should be the focus of the ACT government. An 'assisted dying' scheme will inevitably reduce funding in this area and diminish the value of life. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Peter Laughlin

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Kambah, AU-ACT 2902

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