



**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: 273**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 29/3/18**

This submission is made to:

The Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT

in respect of:

The Inquiry Into End of Life Choices in the ACT

by:

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1. To explain my interest and standing in this matter, I am making this submission as an 89 year old, currently enjoying life with my wife, but with chronic pain, and having recently been present at my youngest son's final weeks as he died of cancer.

**2. I have read, and strongly endorse, the submission from Exit International (ACT chapter) of which I have been a member for several years.** In addition I wish to add the following comment to that part of Exit's submission addressing your Terms of Reference 3 and 4.

Exit's submission draws attention to the restrictive nature of the Victorian legislation (which it calls the medical model) and proposes an alternative "human rights" model stressing the quality of life as a factor. But it acknowledges that drafting legislation for the latter, while retaining safeguards against misuse, will be more difficult than for the former.

It seems to me that there is an analogy here with science and technology. Human nature being what it is, any scientific advance which benefits the vast majority is liable to be subverted by a small minority for criminal purposes (the Internet is a good example). But very few people would accept this as a valid argument for depriving the majority of the benefits of the advance.

Similarly, no matter how carefully new or improved legislation for end-of-life choices is drafted, there will always be a tiny minority seeking ways to subvert it. But this is not a reason for consigning the task to the too hard basket and making no attempt to draft legislation encompassing a wider range of people than the Victorian model.

**Consequently I would urge the Committee to be undeterred by the possibility of attempted misuse, but to report to the ACT government that, if given the power to do so, and in the light of overseas practices, suitable legislation can indeed be enacted which accommodates the Exit recommendations, thereby widening the range of people able to end their life with dignity, with or without medical intervention.**

4. I believe that provided no coercion is involved, and no other party is materially harmed, every adult of sound mind has the right to implement plans for the end of their life so that their death is reliable, peaceful and at a time of their choosing. I regard control over one's life and death to be a fundamental civil right from which no one of sound mind should be excluded. **Please act to ensure that voluntary euthanasia is available to those who want it.**

I thank you for your attention,

Dennis Glanville