

# Dying with Dignity ACT Inc.

## Everyone deserves a peaceful death

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**Bulletin No 15**

**February 2018**

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The Australian Capital Territory's Legislative Assembly is calling for submissions to a Select Committee on End of Life Choices. The closing date for submissions is Friday, 23 February, 2018. They prefer submissions to be sent via email to [LACommitteeEOLC@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeEOLC@parliament.act.gov.au)

DWDACT Inc. committee is preparing a submission based on the close examination of the ACT law that we have made over the last 13 years rather than statements about the personal experience of individuals. Once the committee has finalized our submission, we will put it on the DWDACT website for your information. We will be meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> so you should find it on the website shortly after that.

Those opposed to assisted dying are likely to use their extensive communication networks to encourage a lot of people to make negative submissions.

It would be helpful if you were to write your personal story or explain why end-of-life choice is so important to you to supplement our more analytical approach with real world experiences and to counteract the minority who oppose this change on the basis of their religious belief that we all must die of disease because we belong to God, suffering brings us close to Jesus and death by natural causes (disease) is what God wants. In their view all other deaths are a form of murder.

Real change to the law in Victoria last year was very minimal and unnecessarily complicated because it was so heavily influenced by the numbers of politicians who hold or support the religious beliefs I've described above. These beliefs have been the basis for the law on death for thousands of years so they are not easy to change but if we are to obtain law that actually supports and protects our needs as people, politicians need to be given strong reasons as to why they should change it. So please add your voice to the submissions received by the committee.

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*Meeting dates in 2018:*

Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)*	Thurs 15 February, 2pm
Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 19 April, 2pm
Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 21 June, 2pm
Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 16 August, 2pm
Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 18 October, 2pm
Committee meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 6 December, 2pm

Annual General Meeting (GCCC Holder)	Thursday 5 April, 2pm
General Meeting (venue TBA)	Thursday 20 September, 2pm
WFRtDD (venue TBA)	Friday 2 November

\*GCCC Holder is the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder.

*Regards,*

*Jeanne Arthur*

*President, Dying with Dignity ACT*

*PO Box 55*

*Waramanga*

*ACT 2611*

*W: [www.dwdact.org.au](http://www.dwdact.org.au)*

*8 February 2018*