

5/4/08

Dear Members of the Federal Parliament

It is with my own feelings & thoughts that I write this letter.

It is of great importance for our old people to die a natural death.

We the aboriginal people do not want the euthanasia law on our old people, they do not know what it is or even understand it, even if you talk about this word to families, this is not of our ways.

Old people were taught by ancestors, from the dream-time about special songs of corroborees, that represents certain clan groups only too sing these important corroborees that is known to these people only.

By listening to these songs each day & night nights, they will know in their hearts their spirits will travel back to its rightful place of countries or home-lands.

These songs <sup>goes</sup> soften & calm their feelings as they slowly, slowly drift away at last they are home & at peace.

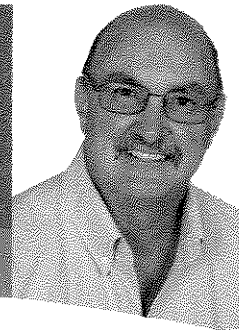
Give them their respect & dignity the way they want to die, go.

Yours Sincerely  
Joy White, Bagot Community  
Kika Women



# Ted Warren MLA

Member for Goyder



YOUR STRONG RURAL VOICE IN GOVERNMENT

Chair,  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs.

8<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Dear Senator Crossin,

**RE: RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL BILL.**

Between the 19<sup>th</sup> March and the 8<sup>th</sup> April, I ran a yes/no/undecided 'clipboard' questionnaire outside my electorate office asking people: "Should a terminally ill person be able to request and receive assistance from medically qualified persons to voluntarily terminate his or her life in a humane manner"? The clipboard questionnaire advised that the results would be passed onto the Senate Enquiry into Voluntary Euthanasia

There were 89 respondents, of whom 84 nominated "yes" and 5 nominated "no". There were no undecided. This represents a 94% vote in support of voluntary euthanasia and 6% against voluntary euthanasia. I realise this is a very small sample and only those who felt strongly enough about this issue would have bothered to take the time to respond. However, despite the survey's shortcomings, the significant "yes" vote I believe indicates strong support for voluntary euthanasia in the rural area outside Darwin.

**Some of the "yes" comments included:-**

"People will end their lives if it's legal or not".

"It should be a personal decision", "freedom of choice", "my life my choice", "own choice", "your life – your choice", "shouldn't the question be when, allowing them to decide", "each to their own", "ill people should be able to make a choice", "no one else has the right to decide", "personal choice is the main factor", "It's my bloody choice, no politician is God".

"We allow this for our animal friends", "we treat animals more humanely than we do our terminally ill", "we put our pets down and let them die with dignity",

"It should be an option", "we put animals down when needed".

"If only the lawmakers had to walk in the shoes of the terminally ill", "why should people suffer in acute pain. If they want to end it they should be able".

"Please help your fellow pollies to stop playing politics".

"It can only be kind", "I have seen too many people having to give up their dignity in order to live an extended life", "dignity", "it's all about quality of life and dying with dignity", "compassion, love and the right to face our own dignity is paramount", "if you have ever watched someone suffer, please yes", "why suffer if you are terminally ill", "watching someone suffer through palliative care is heart breaking".

"As long as appropriate and sufficient legal safeguards are in place to protect the vulnerable".



Moving the  
Territory Ahead

**Ted Warren MLA, Member for Goyder**

Shop 44 Coolalinga Village, Stuart Highway NT 0835 • PO Box 1094 Humpty Doo NT 0836  
Phone: (08) 8983 3477 • Fax: (08) 8983 3488 • Email: electorate.goyder@nt.gov.au

"I'm terminally ill, when I can no longer function I would like to be in control of my demise",.

"Remember it could be you dying slowly".

"Any person who says no has not been through the loss of a long term terminal person's death".

"Please, no more men like Kevin Andrews".

**The "no" comments included:-**

"Leave the person go when they are ready".

"My best friend died at 33 of numerous cancers, kept everyone happy and laughing and said no, I will see it to the end".

"See the stats in Amsterdam on voluntary euthanasia".

"People can already request palliative care".

"Does not work overseas".

I hope this 'snapshot' of public opinion helps your committee in their deliberations on this most topical and important issue.

Regards,



Ted Warren MLA  
Member for Goyder.