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27<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs,  
Department of the Senate,  
P.O. Box 6100  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Re: Euthanasia Laws Repeal Bill 2008

I write this submission to Federal Parliament asking that consideration be given to reinstating the 1996 Northern Territory Voluntary Euthanasia Law overturned in 1997.

I am 67 years and in good health at this stage but I feel that people who are terminally ill or aged and feel they cannot cope with day to day living should have the legal right to seek assistance to end their life humanly and with dignity.

My mother chose to go into assisted living at 87 years, before, coping on her own, with my assistance. I still cared for her extra needs while in care, making sure her teeth were cleaned, her clothes cleaned, her drawers cleared of old food, things the village staff forgot or were just too busy to do. I watched, with great sadness her deteriorating health – eye sight, dementia and loss of control of bodily functions and falls, all contributing to embarrassment and wanting to die. The last six months of her life was spent in a nursing home, in pain after another fall and having to be spoon fed until I was called to her bedside on Boxing Day 2005, the nursing staff feeling it was nearing the end of life. I sat with her for three hours, her normal Doctor was on leave interstate and the locum, after a visit and prescribing morphine incorrectly, was driving away with his mobile turned off and could not be contacted. All my mother could say was “please help me over and over again. All I could do was stroke her hands and try to comfort her. Eventually the staff located the Doctor and morphine was administered – she died soon after.

It is a memory that will stay with me to the end of my life – we are kinder to our animals at the end of life. My mother wanted to die with dignity before she was in this state. There is a right to life why is it so difficult in these circumstances to allow the people who want it, a right to die.

Please consider Senator Bob Brown's Second Reading Speech.

Yours sincerely,

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Sandra Corbett