

Wednesday 26th March 2008



Dear Mr. Hallahan,

Enquiry into the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal Bill 2008)

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the above enquiry. My wife and I feel that we do have something of value to contribute and would be grateful to receive a formal invitation to attend.

We have been members of 'ExitInternational' for more than fourteen years and last August suffered the ill fortune of being diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Having now undergone the results of early treatment for this disease and understandably studied all the relative information, intelligible to 'a lay person' I can find, particularly with regard to the very limited curative methodology available to the Australian public, my wife and I decided to 'do' something rather than await the consequences of doing nothing.

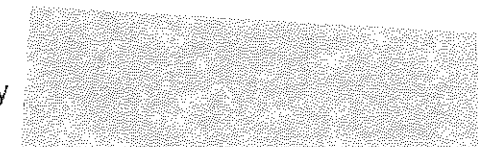
With the added imperative of having a good friend and fellow-member of ExitInternational who has been suffering increasingly worse offshoots of a now rapidly developing cancer over a period (now exceeding fifteen years) – and who last year became totally unable to make a trip overseas – legally or illegally – my wife and I volunteered to make the trip to Tijuana on her behalf. Our association with that method of obtaining a product leading to a 'peaceful death' is thus very current.

Everyone seems to have a positive 'position' on this matter, with polls held over recent years conclusively showing results in favour to the unmistakeable tune of approximately 70-80%. This would seem to indicate that the usual active and noisy minority – mostly religiously based lobby groups continue to prevail in their bigoted views.

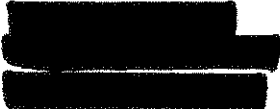
Needless to say, my wife and I are elderly. I am 78, and now suffer from that evil asbestos generated disease from which no one recovers. My wife has just turned 85 and whilst in reasonable health, statistically cannot expect her life to continue to long exceed the normal span.

Finally, reverting to our trip to Mexico last month (11th. to 21st.February .2008) I again emphasise its currency. Consequently, we would very much prefer to make a verbal submission to the enquiry rather than a written one. I therefore beg that that privilege be granted.

Yours sincerely



FROM: Donald St John Aloysius Flounders.



TO: Mr. Peter Hallahan, Secretary
The Standing Committee on Legal
and Constitutional Affairs.
PO Box 6100 CANBERRA 2600