
From: Margaret Ball
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2008 6:20 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Submission for the repeal of the Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008

Submission on Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

I am writing to express my support for the Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008. When this was overturned in the Northern Territory 10 years ago, it was a tremendous blow for anyone wishing to make their own decision on their treatment and care in the event of their becoming terminally ill and in great pain.

Voluntary euthanasia is not an act of 'killing', it is an act of mercy and a humane way of treating people who are in great pain and with little or no quality of life. It is my life, and I should have a say on how I want to end it. I do not believe that a decision as important as this should be left to the politicians, who make decisions for their electorate based on their personal religious beliefs. We do not all have those same beliefs, so please let us make a decision ourselves on whether we have had enough of pain and suffering.

We should all have the choice of asking for help in dying when terminally ill and suffering great pain. A doctor should be allowed to help me without fear of breaking the law.

Medical science has progress tremendously in the last ten years, and keeps people living longer. This is good in one way, but not necessarily in every situation. More and more people are being kept alive by new drugs just for the sake of giving treatment. This often leads to patients having very little quality of life, and are often in great pain.

I am now 75 years old, and want the assurance and peace of mind that legal voluntary euthanasia would be at hand if I become terminally ill and suffering intolerably.

I wish to record in the strongest possible way my support for legalising voluntary euthanasia and to be available all over Australia.

With respect

Margaret Ball