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**From:** Anya van Eeuwen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 March 2008 2:32 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Repeal of the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997

To the Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir,

I know first hand how painful and difficult the dying process is for cancer sufferers, when my mother died of this disease aged 45.

During the last months of her illness she was even operated on to remove a blood clot, while it was already known that she had irreversible cancer as it had spread over her entire body and even affected her bones.

You would not do it to an enemy, so why do we continue to force our loved ones to die a prolonged and painful death, while we have the means to allow patients to put an end to their suffering and while we have dogs put down when they are in (too much) pain. What a crazy world this has become? It is high time we started looking at euthanasia as a free choice for each individual and put simple measures (three doctors who will consult with the patient about the final steps to be taken and *who will not in any way* gain by the person's death) into place to protect such a patient.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will agree to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* to allow the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Norfolk Island to make legislation for people who are terminally ill.

And after that hopefully look into changing the laws in the whole of Australia, because it is high time we do look into that.

Yours sincerely,  
Anja L. van Eeuwen

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