

submission to the Senate Committee inquiry in support of the *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*

I have recently been forced to live through the dying process of a dear , 89 years old , friend . For a long time I have held a mild acceptance of the right to ask for euthanasia . This feeling has been multiplied tenfold and is now trenchant .

A society that is not evolving and changing becomes frozen in time and decays . Change should be incremental and should not be delayed until a more extreme , bigger step change is forced .

A 5 year cooling off period may be a way of softly introducing legal euthanasia . In my case I would declare my request for assistance over at least a 5 year period until I decide the time for me to die .

Time to allow family & friends to accept that it is totally my choice to decide when I no longer wish to live.

A five year period should preclude "family" , "friends" or "society" from being able to object when I finally decide to make , what should be , my free choice any way .

There is a need for a change in the philosophy of dying.

Social commentator Hugh Mackay hopes for a future with greater awareness & moral maturity . Greater awareness of the aging process and acceptance of diminishing quality of life until we ultimately die .

As we move to a post theocratic, religion free era there is still a need to prevent superstitious twits like Kevin Andrews from preventing me having a dignified death of my own choosing.

I think it criminal that anyone's money be paid to a medical industrial complex that will profit from prolonging my life until it decides to allow my death.

A medical industry that funds itself on prolonging life till finally starving a person to death or waiting for pneumonia to manifest is a bizarre and callous industry .

True validation of a hypocritical oath .

Presently , if I euthanased myself now, money would have to be found for an unnecessary autopsy !! This time and money could be spent in an infinity of better ways. (Maybe a lobotomy for Kevin Andrews ?)

I wish to donate my body and organs to a medical hospital when I die . I would like to make this as convenient as possible to all concerned.

I can only hope Kevin Andrews gets the choice to choose the living death he is inflicting on others .

I am not seeking my philosophy for all . If some people wish to stay alive as long as they and my taxes can pay , that is their business and merely deserves my disapproval .

All I ask is not to be forced to be as asinine as some others while going through the trauma of my dying .

please take the above as my support for Bob Brown's 2008 Bill
david slatyer