

# Marka Educational Consultants

Director: Dr M E March MBE FACEA

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Monday, 24 March 2008

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

## SUBMISSION

I am writing in relation to the Inquiry into the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 in order to support the Bill proposed by Senator Bob Brown to repeal the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997.

The rights of the terminally ill should be respected so that those suffering pain, discomfort, embarrassment and distress are able to make their own end-of-life decisions and, should they wish it, to receive help to achieve a legal and peaceful death that allows them to die with dignity. I believe that current public sentiment is now favourable to this move and that high-handed moralistic decrees enforcing the unreasonable prolongation of life and continued endurance are unnecessary in today's society. It is inappropriate to belittle the views of those most closely affected and to deny them the legal right to be involved in the actual decision that personally affects them.

Over the years I have been closely associated with many people contemplating the end of their days who have expressed such a wish and believe that the right of the Territories to make laws in this regard should be restored and regret the passage of the narrowly focused Andrews Bill that removed that right.

My wife, Pauline Marion March, is a retired hospital pharmacist and has a great deal more experience with the terminally ill than I. She is currently undergoing extensive treatment for colon cancer and strongly supports this submission. Her signature is appended below.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr M E March

Pauline Marion March