

Steve & Donna Mahony

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25/03 /2008

A Submission from Steve & Donna Mahony to the Legal and Constitutional Committee in regards to the Rights Of The Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws) Bill 2008

Dear Sir /Madam,

We write with much concern as we believe this to be a vital piece of legislation that should be passed by the Australian Parliament in the cause of humanity!

We are both of Christian belief and are aged in our fifties. Every year we know someone who dies and the older we get, the more people we personally know that will die. Some will die in what can only be described as a non compassionate inappropriate situation. This legislation will provide a source of relief for those in pain and suffering, knowing that there is no cure for the disease or injury that ails them.

Our father, father in law died from a long suffering battle with cancer and no doubt his death certificate has the cause of death down as a victim of cancer, but instead he died of starvation and dehydration, unable to eat or drink in his last months, wasting away to nothing. We could not assist in the relief of his pain and he was just given narcotics, with the nursing staff changing his excrement laden nappies as they needed to or when and where they had the time. This is no way to let any one die, allowing him to observe others dying, awaiting his turn, laying in bodily excrement, addicted to the drugs they had given him, called pain relief, remembering his memories and thinking of all he had not done but wanted to do.

People of this government take the abhorrent attitude that it is alright to send our young men and women overseas to die as military personnel; but we cannot allow someone who is terminally ill to die with mercy, compassion and dignity.

The politicians who are elected to represent the community abrogate their responsibilities, unless they support this bill in its passage. It is already known that nearly 85% of the population of Australia supports the conception of euthanasia.

Probably what is more distressing to see the acts of politicians in the Northern Territory, where we live. These politicians are pushing their own barrows for Statehood. This is throwing agony in the face of the people suffering and those who have suffering friend and relatives. These politicians should have not have stood for election, if this is their attitude. They only have disdain for the electorate, not supporting the views of the electorate; with their primary role just being to collect their salaries. The issue is Euthanasia and reducing the suffering of the terminally ill, not state rights.

If the parliament cannot act as per the expectations of the electorate, then put the issue to a plebiscite and let the people decide; after all it is the parliament of the Australian people, not the parliament of the politicians.

We gave an example of cancer but there are so many other incurable diseases. In time all these diseases will probably be able to be cured; but we will never be able to stop injury, so therefore in the case of incurable sickness and injury we need this legislation for now and the future.

We feel very qualified in writing this submission, as one of us has been resuscitated, whilst the other had the anguish of contributing to that resuscitation. We both value life. We also know the necessity for compassion and in some cases there is a prime case in relinquishing life to ease pain and suffering where there is clearly no other choice.

The Euthanasia Bill that we have read has inbuilt safeguards, safeguards that should protect the individual. We also believe, if need be in the future, or now, that amendments can be incorporated to protect the individual; if it is seen that this legislation is unsatisfactory, but the basic principals as written in the bill should remain the same.

We implore as an act of humanity that the Senate and in the near future the House of Representatives passes and enacts as legislation The Rights of The Terminally Ill Bill.

Kind Regards

Stephen & Donna Mahony