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From: Clive Monty [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2008 12:36 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: SENATOR BROWN'S BILL TO OVERTURN ANDREWS EUTHANASIA LAWS ACT

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate

Dear Mr Hallanan

I am submitting my views, for consideration by the Committee, on the legislation proposed by Senator Bob Brown.

I believe that the Committee should approve Senator Brown's Bill because it will effectively allow for the practice of voluntary euthanasia in the Northern Territory (and eventually the Australian Capital Territory).

While palliative care can meet the needs of many terminally ill people for pain relief it is not effective in possibly 5% of cases. These people need compassionate consideration. In their situation **voluntary** euthanasia should be an option under the law.

It seems that at the moment some doctors resort to **involuntary** euthanasia of some patients, defending their actions by relying on the Double Effect argument, whereby they claim that they are alleviating pain with the (inevitable and) unintended "side effect" of death. Others apparently are quite happy to admit in surveys to using euthanasia with some terminally ill patients.

The two sides to this debate seem to be irreconcilably opposed. However, assisted death allows people to die in peace without resorting to the trauma of such methods as hanging, shooting etc. Worse still, would be the trauma resulting from failed attempts at suicide e.g. drug overdose not leading to death.

I believe that if laws can be framed that will allow individuals to freely choose euthanasia without any pressure from doctor, family or friends then such laws should be enacted. Senator Brown's Bill allows for this and so should be supported.

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