



09th March 2008

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Voluntary Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

Advances in palliative care have undoubtedly done much to make the final days of those suffering from terminal disease more comfortable and more bearable. However, there remain a small proportion of patients whose pain can not be relieved and there are others for whom freedom from pain is not the single factor that makes a life worth living. Debilitating factors that often accompany terminal disease may include extreme fatigue, paralysis, blindness, deafness, aphasia and incontinence and as a consequence, many of the most fruitful and rewarding activities of a previously full working and social life may no longer be possible. After a lifetime of being in control of one's destiny, a future of total dependence on others for all, even the most personal details can be a most horrific prospect.

Dying with Dignity (Tasmania) Inc) is totally committed to the right to choose.

The right to voluntarily choose to terminate one's own life along with the equal 'Right to Life' or right to accept continuing treatment options. Drafting legislation to respect these rights is not an easy task but this is no reason to abandon the task if we are to avoid the all too frequent, protracted, distressing and costly court actions faced by surviving carers and family.

This organization totally supports this Bill and believes that the safeguards it contains are well considered.

Mike Harris
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YOUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE

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