

JILL NEVILLE

MA, RSA DIP TEFLA

TEACHER OF ENGLISH



22 March 2008

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

Dear Sirs

**INQUIRY INTO THE RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL
(EUTHANASIA LAWS REPEAL) BILL 2008**

I have been a member of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society in Britain and Australia for more than 40 years (since my youth). This is because I have always believed in the principle of 'choice'. I would not want euthanasia imposed on anyone who did not share my beliefs. By the same token, I do not consider that people who hold different beliefs have any right to impose their point of view on me.

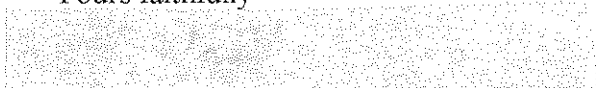
My mother died two days after suffering a severe stroke at the age of 86. Both my parents were concerned about lingering after quality of life has gone and it was fortunate that the medical staff listened to my request that she not be kept alive artificially. She had signed a declaration to this effect. Instead, she was nursed with compassion and allowed to slip away. Unfortunately, this does not always happen and patients can suffer months or years of pain, indignity and perhaps, misery.

It has never ceased to amaze me that we can choose euthanasia for our pets and are considered 'kind'. In fact, it would be considered cruel to keep alive an animal that was suffering severely. Yet this type of cruelty is inflicted on human patients - even when they have stated that they wish to die. I stress again that euthanasia for humans must be voluntary and should, of course, have strict safeguards to ensure that it is in accordance with the wishes of the patient.

Please accept my submission with reference to *The Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008* and my support for the legalisation of Voluntary Euthanasia.

If my submission is made public, please do not publish my street address or email address.

Yours faithfully



Jill Neville (Ms)