



Secular Freethinkers' Society (UQ)



09/04/08

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

SUBMISSION RE: Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the above Bill.

I believe it was a thoroughly undemocratic act of the Howard Government to over-ride the Northern Territory's Voluntary Euthanasia law for what seems to many as purely religious reasons. Australia is supposed to be a modern liberal democracy, which means our public policy should not be based on any particular religious view or belief system. Surely the government should be neutral in deciding public policy to ensure that the individual's freedom of conscience is secured.

The choice to access Voluntary Euthanasia under the Territory's law was just that—a choice. A choice which would have allowed certain individuals greater control over the time and manner of their death. Those opposed to Voluntary Euthanasia should not be allowed to impose their religious views on others, as this undermines the rights of the individual and ultimately our democracy.

I ask the commission to recommend the passage of Senator Brown's Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Proctor,
President, Secular Freethinkers' Society (UQ)