



**Voluntary Euthanasia Society
of Queensland Inc**

Brisbane

Your Right to Choose

Patron: Jim Soorley

Paddington Q 4064

Hon Secretary:

16 Howard St

9th April, 2008

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,

We are writing in support of the above-mentioned Bill.

Firstly, we believe it was not only undemocratic, it was anti-democratic of the previous Government, regardless of their opinions about voluntary euthanasia, to over-turn the Northern Territory's legislation: legislation which was validly made by a Parliament constituted of elected Australian representatives. Senator Brown's Bill would redress the wrong that was committed.

There are many safeguards in the original Territory Law which would prevent misuse and there was no reason for it to be over-ridden.

Secondly, the ability to be able to choose a clean and peaceful death when all quality of life has gone leaving only suffering and indignity, should be everyone's basic right. The choice to die under the Territory's law was just that – a choice. Those who do not support voluntary euthanasia would not make that choice but they should not have the right to impose their beliefs on others.

We ask to Commission to recommend the passage of this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Mannison
Secretary, VESQ

The objective of the Society is to achieve legislation giving effect to the widely held public opinion that any person suffering, through illness or disability, severe pain or distress for which no remedy is available, should be entitled, *by law*, to a painless and dignified death, *in accordance with that person's expressed directions*.

Web site www.vesq.org.au