

William J. F. Ditmarsch

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3 April 2008

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs,

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

Enough has been said and written by others about the pros and cons of what I prefer to call the Right to Die.

It is not for me to add more. Rather I wish to contribute from a personal conviction that the Right to Die, as is the case in one's Right to Live, must rest with the individual.

I am 73 years of age, mentally and physically active, involved in business, walking and playing tennis and I have absolutely no intentions of ending my life at this time.

However, I feel very strongly that I must have the right, and the opportunity, to arrange for my end when and if I desire to do so because I do not **ever, under any circumstance**, want to be dependent on anyone else.

The thought of being incontinent, smelly and helpless, is something I would not wish on my dog. and whether or not, at the time of my choosing, it is legal or otherwise to contribute towards ending my own misery will not really be a consideration. It being illegal will just make it more difficult and costly.

The anguish and sorrow in these later stages, for the family and for the nursing staff involved, are bad enough, but it is the process of getting through these that I find unnerving. I simply do **NOT** want to be involved!.

It is for this reason that I urge you, if only for my sake, to support Mr Brown's effort to have the Territory's **Rights of the Terminally Ill** bill reinstated.

Thank you

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Bill Ditmarsch