

Submission to the Senate Committee inquiring into the Rights of the Terminally Ill
(Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

As the widow of Bob Dent, the first person to use Marshall Perron's "most compassionate piece of legislation" (my husband's words), I want to see Senator Brown's legislation passed. Getting his piece of paper signed by the necessary three doctors gave my husband enormous peace of mind. Opponents say good palliative care obviates the need for euthanasia but even good palliative care becomes burdensome. When the terminally ill person reaches the stage where he is still alive but no longer living, the chance to use ROTI gives much comfort. Palliative Care Australia now concedes that even with optimal palliative care, the desire for euthanasia remains. ROTI was the first euthanasia legislation in the world. Now other jurisdictions have similar legislation; none is compulsory, safeguards are in place to prevent abuse, there is no evidence of the slippery slope alluded to by those who are against such legislation. To them I say, you don't have to worry, this is one law you can safely ignore if you want to.

As an Australian citizen who chooses to live in the Northern Territory, I resent being demoted to second-class citizenship by the passage of the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997*. Even if I did not believe in voluntary euthanasia, I would want the self-government act restored to the status it had before Kevin Andrews' private member's bill was passed so that the people of the territories have the same rights as the people of the states.

Judy Dent
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