

To: The Senate Inquiry into Euthanasia

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you out of great concern about Bob Brown's *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*.

I wish to voice my opposition to any such legislation for the following reasons:

- 1) Human life should be given the highest value and such legislation could potentially open the floodgates of indiscriminate "killing" of the most vulnerable people in our community – the elderly and people with disabilities.
- 2) Our country has excellent palliative care options for people with terminal illnesses and this should be looked upon as the best way to help those who are suffering from ill health.
- 3) A potential legal minefield could be opened by allowing euthanasia – who would make judgements about whether a person was in a fit mental state to make the decision to end their own life by this method?
- 4) This legislation could pave the way for people to take their own lives for reasons such as "not wanting to be a burden to others" and people could feel subtle pressure to end their lives even if they're not ready to die.
- 5) Allowing the terminally ill to take their own lives would be the first step to introducing other legislation to allow anybody to do the same – what sort of society would propose that suicide is a viable alternative to the pressures that we all face in one way or another?
- 6) While it is not "popular" to believe in "a higher authority", I would bring to your attention that the laws and parliamentary system of our country are largely based on Christian values and principles, and these are totally opposed to the idea of euthanasia – our lives are in God's hands.
- 7) With constant advances in medical technology, many illnesses and diseases are now being either cured or able to be managed in a dignified manner, so people should be encouraged to make the most of their lives, even if they are not as ideal as they would like.

Thankyou for allowing me to make this short submission. I hope that you will recommend in the strongest possible terms that this legislation goes no further than it has already.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs J. Michaelson