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**From:** kerie hooke  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2008 2:56 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my support for voluntary euthanasia, along the lines of the Dutch method.

Five years ago my father, who had a disease of the immune system due to his lifelong care and anxieties, often about my mother, died following a fractured hip. He spent the last eight weeks of a life to which he had contributed enormously and done well, both at home and at work and without the benefits of an education, in agony and with a complete lack of dignity. The nursing care was negligible at Mona Vale Hospital, he contracted four infections including a staphylococcus, he had his hands tied to the sides of the bed for a couple of weeks, and was finally refused rehabilitation for the hip. I heard his calling out from the door of the hospital each time I visited him there. Although the hospital had said he would be able to stay, he was given the choice of two nursing homes, both substandard, and so a person to whom lovely homes had always been important, finished up in a grimy place that failed to notice his deterioration so that they only

contacted me the night before he was again transferred to Mona Vale Hospital to take three days to die.

I had a complaint to the Health Care Nursing Homes Complaints Section upheld and changes were made there as well as to Mona Vale Hospital, from whom I received a letter of apology.

My father eventually started spitting out his medication but he had no fear of death and would have felt more in control if he had been able to sign something when he entered the hospital or nursing home to the effect that he wished to end his life.

I therefore ask you to support this voluntary euthanasia legislation in order to help proud and giving old people like my father end their lives with dignity.

Kerie Hooke

March 28, 2008