

27th of March, 2008

Att: Peter Hallahan,
Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee.

Dear Peter,

I am writing this submission in support of the Right of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 and voluntary euthanasia (VE) in general. I think we can all agree that human life is precious and we must do whatever we can (within reason) to preserve this gift of existence. However it is also clear that given certain circumstances we would all wish for a speedy and painless death for ourselves and our loved ones. I need not go into any detail of what these circumstances may be as I'm sure that individual cases can be debated least to say that if we are honest to ourselves it is not difficult to foresee future conditions that we may find ourselves in, in which we would welcome a merciful, painless death with open arms.

Since the Euthanasia Laws Act was passed in the Netherlands, Belgium and Oregon have adopted assisted dying laws and I believe that the new laws have been a success and aided in the merciful death of many suffering people in these nations while Australians are being forced to travel overseas to end their lives humanely or even worse take matters into their own hands and attempt to commit suicide using horrible, painful methods often unsuccessfully only making matters worse.

Support for VE has grown from 75% to 80% (Newspoll 2007) since the NT law was overturned. I believe that the debate as to whether a sick, dying person who is suffering on a daily basis should be allowed to end their life painlessly and with dignity is well and truly won with only a handful of religious zealots arguing against the practice. It is clear that the moral thing to do is pay a suffering human being the same respect that we would our sick pets and provide the medical resources to aid in ending the horrific pain that all too many Australians suffer through every day. In contrast it is morally reprehensible to force terminally ill people who are suffering to elongate the horror that they experience on a day to day basis with our advanced medical technology that is now able to make us die more slowly than any other time in history.

Like many unjust laws that have been passed throughout history (i.e. Apartheid, Women's Rights Violations etc) it is clear that it is just a matter of time until the political actions catch up with the social consciousness and voluntary euthanasia is legalised globally.

I strongly support the Right of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008, and sincerely hope that this bill gets passed so that immeasurable suffering of future terminally ill people in the ACT, NT and Norfolk Island can be avoided.

Yours Sincerely,

Damian Moratti.