

---

**From:** Sheila Howe  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 March 2008 3:55 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Rts of the Terminally Ill

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

I wish to add my submission to the above.

Having worked in this field of voluntary euthanasia for nearly 15 years, 4 years as president of Tasmanias V.E. Society, I have seen a huge change of attitudes.

Earlier years saw a reluctance to speak of death and euthanasia amongst the elderly (not quite a 'nice' subject to dwell on), and younger people generally had a 'doesn't affect me attitude'.

Now the subject is so much more in the open, leading to a 'my life, my decision' attitude. Countless elderly, normally law-abiding people plan their demise, discussing the methods they will use! No thought that they will be breaking the law - rather 'my life, just try to stop me' attitude.

When I am approached by an elderly person who wants to speak with me and they calmly tells me their thoughts, I am still slightly surprised at how much these attitudes have changed.

How much better life would be with voluntary euthanasia laws in place so these people could relax, knowing their was help available legally should they need it.

Sheila Howe