

29 March 2008

Committee Secretary, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate, PO Box 6100
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sirs/Madam

I wish to recommend the passage of Senator Brown's Bill re the restoring of the rights of the Northern Territory, the A.C.T. and Norfolk Island and hope the government will enact the legislation which will allow terminally ill people to finish life as they see fit.

It was a sad day when National Parliament overturned Northern Territory legislation - The Euthanasia Laws Act 1997. I strongly believe in the right of people to make their own choice be it euthanasia or abortion. If the Right to Life people believe otherwise that then will be their choice. They should not force their point of views upon other thinking people.

I therefore hope that the right of a terminally ill person to request assistance from a medically qualified person to voluntarily terminate his or her life in a humane manner will be supported. We would not treat our animals the way we sometimes treat our terminally ill people. Unfortunately medical advances have been wonderful for most people but have not always been a blessing for the terminally ill whose life sometimes has been prolonged unnecessarily with lots of suffering. Had nature taken its course before all the medical advances were discovered, this would not have been possible.

I have read that 78% of the Australian people support euthanasia. I thought government was meant to support the views of the majority. I know the Howard government did not support the latter but I hope the Rudd government will support me and many other people in our legal right to die with dignity.

I look forward to a new Euthanasia Act which will allow **all** Australians to choose the right to die with dignity by choosing for euthanasia.

Yours sincerely

Ineke Hartman