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**From:** Tanya Ruth  
**Sent:** Saturday, 29 March 2008 12:30 AM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** 'Inquiry into the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

I wish to make a comment relating to the 'Inquiry into the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008.'

As a Registered Nurse I strongly urge those with the power to legalise euthanasia to think again. I became a nurse because I wanted to have a job that helps people. I wanted to be someone who cares for others and who supports them through their time of suffering. I wanted to be a person who makes a difference, someone who brightens another person's day. I know that euthanasia works against these desires.

I do not want my job discription to include killing people, even if those people are deeply depressed, in extreme pain, very deformed or very old. I know that if euthanasia was legalised nurses and other medical professionals most probably would not be forced to be the one who carries out the killing most likely only medical professionals who believe in euthanasia would be asked to perform the last act leading to death. However, I could not go to work each day, knowing that patients that I have cared for are being encouraged to believe that their last days are not worth living.

As a nurse I have seen that even patients who are very old and very deformed are able to live valuable lives. Their lives may not be as happy or as fulfilling as they would like their lives to be but it is still a life. Even people who are young and healthy have difficulties which hinder their hapiness and their fulfillment but that is not a reason to give up. Each of us are given a life, each of us have obstacles to overcome but each of us still have life and that should be treasured and encouraged. That life should not be taken away.

I know that if euthanasia was legalised I would end my nursing career because I would no longer be able to veiw nursing has an honourable career. Australia already has a shortage of nurses, if euthanasia was legalised I am one nurse that Australia would have to do without.

Sincerely

Tanya Shliahov  
Registered Nurse

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**Tanya Shliahov**