

From: Chris Knight

Sent: Tuesday, 8 March 2011 6:05 AM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Subject: Re: Submission Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010

I would like to provide a short submission in support of the Private Senator's Bill, sponsored by Senator Bob Brown, to amend the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* to repeal the provision which enables the Governor-General to disallow and recommend amendments to any Act made by the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly.

I believe that it is a fundamental democratic right of self-government that the proposed amendments provide for exclusive legislative authority for the three territories to be returned to their local legislature.

I was personally appalled when the federal government overturned the Northern Territories voluntary euthanasia legislation through a private members without broader public consultation. My voice was silent then basically because I believed that it would not have been overturned.

While I only have one voice, I hope that it is taken into consideration during the Senate deliberations on this important bill. As Australia's we all believe in a "Fair Go for All" and this belief needs to extend to the rights of those citizens who live in our Australian Territories to be able to make legislation in their own right. What we need is more Australians engaging in the process of debates regarding any and all legislation and amendments that impact on their lives and not just the lobbyist and those that have a particular religious, personal agenda or fundamentalist belief to dominate the feedback on important matters such as this.

I would like to commend Senator Bob Brown in putting forward this Private Senator's Bill to restore these fundamental rights of self-government to our Australian people who chose to live in the ACT, Northern Territory and Norfolk Island.

I would also like to thank the other Senators who have an email address that is readily available to the public so we can share our thoughts with them. I don't have the luxury of time in filling out individual contact forms to communicate with the other Senators nor do I require a reply from Senators that I have cc'd a copy of this email to. Your debates in Parliament will be sufficient.

I wish you well in your deliberations and trust that common sense will prevail in restoring the rights back to the people of the Australian Territories.

Kindest regards

Mrs. Chris Knight