

I, Anne Moira Kirkwood, would like to register my strong opposition to the Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Sen Bob Brown, known as the ACT Amendment Bill.

We, the Australian people, are well aware that the purpose of the proposed Bill is factually not concerned with territorial rights, but is a blatant attempt to impose Euthanasia and Civil Unions (equivalent to homosexual "marriage") in the ACT, NT and Norfolk Island.

I totally reject both these measures.

So-called "voluntary" euthanasia is a fallacious concept, as has been demonstrated in countries where this legislation is in effect, including the Netherlands, where a government study has revealed that killing without the consent of a patient has "become more or less routine". The aged, the infirm and the severely disabled are put under increasing pressure to die, so that they will not be a "burden on society".

Euthanasia is not "help in dying", but a licence to kill with impunity, involving not only a patient, terminally ill or otherwise, but the medical profession and the law. It goes far beyond personal choice, and impacts society as a whole.

Once the government is involved, the cost factor dominates. Shameless criteria are coming to be accepted, whereby a so-called "quality of life" of an individual may be balanced against the cost of providing health care.

A push for legalising euthanasia has its origin in an abominable eugenics movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries, determining that some lives are "unworthy of life", a principle enforced in Nazi Germany, to rid society of "useless" and "undesirable" persons.

It is a sad reflection on contemporary society that a patient in need of compassionate care is equated to an animal in need of being put down. Specialists have clearly stated that effective pain management is now available to control virtually all forms of human suffering. Sedation is always available as last resort.

The standard of palliative care in Australia is the highest in the world. In cases in which patients suffer ongoing severe pain, it is because of lack of access to available palliative care. Legislation to allow euthanasia would effectively put a stop to research in palliative medicine, and prevent further advancement in pain prevention and patient care.

Proponents of homosexual "marriage" comprise a powerful and aggressive political lobby, not to be confused with homosexual persons. The strategy of the lobby shuns logical debate and instead is focused on vilifying those who support authentic marriage between a man and a woman as "bigoted" and "motivated by hate". Nothing could be further from the truth.

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that "men and women have a right to marry and found a family", which is the "natural and fundamental group unit of society, entitled to protection by society and the state". The same declaration protects freedom of speech, religion and conscience, and parental rights to determine the type of education for their children.

In places where SSM has been legalised, compulsory indoctrination of children in homosexuality has been imposed in schools, in violation of parental rights. Examples include Spain, the UK, Canada, and parts of the US. In Canada those who object have been charged with "hate speech crime", punishable with imprisonment, a flagrant violation of freedom of speech.

Terms such as "equality" and "anti-discrimination" are fallacious. All persons are equal, but equality is not sameness. No man can become pregnant, and a same-sex union can never produce children. It is a matter of ineligibility, not denial of equality.

Marriage is about the rights of children and the responsibility of parents for their upbringing and protection, not about satisfying desires of adults. Every child has a mother and a father, and has a right to know, and to be loved and raised by, his or her natural parents. Discrimination may be just or unjust. We discriminate **between**, not **against**.

Both of these legislative measures would be greatly to the detriment of our great country, especially of the welfare of families, children and elderly citizens of our nation.

Anne Moira Kirkwood