

Submission to the Inquiry into the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (ENTRB)

For me as a resident of the ACT, how and why the Parliament of Australia (an allegedly democratic country) ever passed a Bill like the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 which took away the rights of citizens and the powers granted to the legislatures of the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory by the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 and Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 respectively, is a complete mystery. Surely the Parliament of Australia should never abrogate the rights of some citizens depending on the particular jurisdiction in which they live.

Firstly, in keeping with the Federal Parliamentary farce we are forced to endure during the pandemic, the ENTRB is a misnomer, as once it is passed the ACT legislature as well as the NT legislature would both be able to introduce Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation following on from states such as Western Australia and Victoria.

Secondly, what possible justification can there be for restricting the legislative power of self-governing territories according to the whim of members of the federal Parliament who hold particular religious views? Surely VAD laws are a matter for the elected representatives in the legislatures of Australia's self-governing territories.

In short, I strongly endorse the ENTRB 2021.

Peter Enge, 28 August 2021