



SHIRLEY McKERROW OAM

Submission supporting the repeal of the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997.

I wish to support the repeal of the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* (Cth) (the Euthanasia Laws Act), and repeal of the provisions contained in the self-government Acts of the Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, and Norfolk Island that preclude the legislative assemblies of these respective territories from making laws on euthanasia.

This restriction is imposed on certain citizens of Australia due only to their place of residence, and is clearly undemocratic, unjust and discriminatory.

I am a proud Australian, but my pride is somewhat dented by the fact that my Commonwealth Government denies all citizens of all Australian Territories a fundamental right which is enjoyed by other citizens – the right to choose the laws by which they are governed.

The Euthanasia Laws Act is not a matter of national security, trade, defence, diplomacy etc, which are rightfully the province of the Commonwealth. The formation of the Commonwealth was based on the wisdom of this island becoming one nation to keep its citizens safe, healthy and prosperous. It was not formed to deal with the minutia of our individual lives. That is the province of the second-tier governments which are physically and philosophically closer to the citizens residing with their area.

The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory enjoy the right of being governed by second-tier governments, but not the right of choosing the laws governing their lives as individuals. That is a disgrace which needs to be rectified by the repeal of the above Act.

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