

Submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. My name is Rod Bower and I am writing as a humanist in support of the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 because I believe it will improve the human rights of Northern Territory (NT) citizens. The NT is supposed to be a "Self-governing Territory" and yet that self-governance has for 25 years been limited because of one Federal Parliament action, the Euthanasia Act 1997, has in effect made the NT (and the ACT) second class members of the Commonwealth. It is no longer appropriate (if it ever was) for that second class status to remain. The inappropriateness of the situation is even more pronounced when several States have now legislated to allow voluntary assisted dying, which is one of the areas that the NT is unable to act on under existing limitations. **Please recommend the passage of the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 and remove the effective second class status of the Northern Territory Parliament.**

Yours faithfully,
Rod Bower

27/08/2021