

Subject: Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021

Dear [NAME]

I am writing to ask you to vote against the *Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (Bill)*.

Notwithstanding the Bill's proponents claim that it is about territory rights, it is clear that the object of the Bill is to pave the way for legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide in the Northern Territory. It is likely that once debate begins, the Bill will be amended to extend this same permission to the Australian Capital Territory.

You cannot separate the debate about this Bill from the reality of legalised euthanasia. For this reason, it is important that – in assessing the Bill's merits – we look to the consequences of legalised euthanasia, both here and overseas.

I am concerned that, if legalised, euthanasia will be expanded from terminally ill to people in other categories.

For example, Belgium has expanded euthanasia to children, and to those with mental illness alone. The 2020 Belgium euthanasia data shows that 57 people were killed for psychiatric disorders, including depression, bipolar and behavioural disorders.

Additionally, 48 people were killed for cognitive disorders, 43 of whom were not expected to die soon.

Once you make euthanasia legal, it is difficult to stop it being extended to more and more groups, and near impossible to wind it back.

Once you make euthanasia legal, it paves the way for our most vulnerable to be killed.

Please vote 'no' to the passage of the Bill.

Thank you.