

Subject: Stop extreme euthanasia laws being passed in the ACT

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. As constitutional lawyer and academic Professor Greg Craven points out, the territory rights campaign is 'inextricable' from the euthanasia issue.

For this reason, the federal parliament needs to exercise extreme caution before giving territories the capability to design programs that would sanction the killing of its citizens.

With only 25 members in the ACT Legislature, all that would be needed to pass euthanasia laws is the vote of 13 people. This is way too much power to give to such a small number of people with no house of review. What's more, it is likely that any laws passed in the ACT would be the most extreme passed in the country.

The potential extremity has already been foreshadowed in an ACT parliamentary inquiry in 2018, where ACT's Minister for Human Rights, Tara Cheyne, appeared to condone euthanasia for the elderly, not just the terminally ill.

These decisions can't be left to the ACT Legislature. The federal parliament must not shy away for its responsibility of oversight of the territories and vote against the Bill.

Thank you.