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SUBMISSION TO NT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

I strongly oppose legislation which will allow euthanasia or voluntary assisted dying in the Northern Territory.

There is sanctity of all human life and human life should be protected in all circumstances from the beginning of life until natural death.

Compassion means not taking life before natural (unassisted) death but in providing, in the Australian context, palliative care and the compassionate presence of other people until life ends naturally.

Any Government has not done well in trying to regulate interventions in many social issues as evidenced in society around us. Trying to regulate and enforce the criteria or circumstances of terminating human life prior to natural death is a task beyond any legislative body. It should not be attempted.

Any voluntary assisted dying legislation provides a platform for the future watering down or circumventing of any safeguards put in place to prevent abuse. Any voluntary assisted dying legislation provides a 'slippery slope' for the progressive devaluing of human life.

For this high level 'in principle' reasons any voluntary assisted dying legislation is strongly opposed.

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CHRIS BIGG

Christopher John Bigg

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