

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **POLITICIANS HAVE ACCESS TO EUTHANASIA**

ON THE EVE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTING ON THE KEVIN ANDREWS PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO OVERTURN THE N.T. VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA LAW, THE ARCHITECT OF THE TERRITORY LEGISLATION, MARSHALL PERRON, CLAIMS FEDERAL POLITICIANS ALREADY HAVE ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA.

"THEY SHOULD THEREFORE NOT VOTE TO REMOVE THE RIGHT TO VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA WHICH RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NOW HAVE", HE SAID.

PERRON WENT ON, "WHILE ILLEGAL VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA IS PRACTICED ACROSS AUSTRALIA, ONLY THE MOST ASSERTIVE AND AFFLUENT PATIENTS ARE LIKELY TO GET A DOCTOR PREPARED TO HELP.

CONTRARY TO CLAIMS BY KEVIN ANDREWS M.H.R., THE WEAK AND VULNERABLE ARE THE VERY PEOPLE THE N.T. RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL ACT PROTECTS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, EVERY COMPETENT ADULT IS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING. GETTING HELP TO DIE SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON WHO YOU KNOW OR HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE.

AT PRESENT, DOCTORS DECIDE IF AND WHEN DEATH WILL BE ACCELERATED FOR A SUFFERING PATIENT. THE N.T. LEGISLATION EMPOWERS THE PATIENT TO MAKE THAT DECISION".

"TEN MILLION ADULT AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT WHAT THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HAS DONE", SAID MR. PERRON. "FEDERAL POLITICIANS WHO VOTE FOR THE KEVIN ANDREWS' BILL ARE NOT REPRESENTING THE WILL OF THE ELECTORATE".

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CONTACT: MARSHALL PERRON, PHONE (08) 89813375