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# NEIL BELL

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## PRESS RELEASE

### PEOPLE ON LIFE SUPPORT ALREADY COVERED

Shadow Minister for Health, Neil Bell, says in the euthanasia debate some people use examples of people on life support or people being subjected to invasive medical measures in their final days to demonstrate the necessity for voluntary euthanasia legislation when the Natural Death Act (1988) covers these patients.

"The Natural Death Act was introduced and passed to ensure that people in the last stages of a terminal illness did not have to undergo extraordinary and sometimes invasive medical procedures and could die naturally," said Mr Bell.

"All people have to do is have a written statement signed by two people over 18, who is not their medical practitioner, saying they do not want to be subjected to extraordinary measures in the event of terminal illness.

"People need to be aware that this is freely available to adults in the Northern Territory now, and that euthanasia is talking about something completely different.

"Perron's bill on euthanasia is talking about hastening death not letting death take its natural course.

"If anybody would like to read this very simple legislation I would be more than happy to provide people with a copy."

END

CONTACT.....Neil Bell, 529611 or 461573 (bh), 411361 (ah)

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