



Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide

## Letter writing points to oppose Senate Euthanasia Bills

For links to Federal MPs address details go to [www.no euthanasia.org.au](http://www.no euthanasia.org.au) and select the 'take action' menu item.

The Bills:	Restoring Territory Rights (Assisted Suicide Legislation) Bill 2015 and Restoring Territory Rights (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2016 For more information about the bill <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> and <a href="#">HERE</a> .
Proposed by:	Senator David Leyonhjelm (NSW) and Senator Di Natale (VIC) with Senator Gallagher (ACT).
Notes:	Both bills seek to achieve the same thing, so you don't need to write to the same Senators twice. Just mention both bills in the one letter.

### Suggested Arguments:

Please select an number of arguments and use them in your own words. *You may refer simply to 'euthanasia bills before the Senate' rather than the full titles of the bills.*

1. Under the grant of rights to all Australian Territories, the Commonwealth Government is the final arbiter. There is no need to change this arrangement. It's much the same as each State Parliament having say over local councils.
2. If the Territories really want to have the right to determine matters to do with euthanasia, why haven't they asked for it?
3. Full rights are found in the States. States can make decisions on euthanasia. If the Territories wants such rights, they're welcome to petition for statehood.
4. During the debate on the Andrew's Bill it was made very clear that Aboriginal people fear euthanasia for cultural reasons. Euthanasia law is likely to see them stay away from medical services. What kind of message is that in remote Australia where access to medical services is already limited? The Federal Government has intervened to protect Aboriginal people before.
5. Senators have to face the question: Who gets hurt by this bill? You cannot consider only the constitutional/rights issue; you must also consider the known effects.

**General arguments** (about euthanasia and assisted suicide):

6. No matter what the safeguards (so-called) actually are, no matter how well we frame legislation, there is no way that such safeguards can be maintained. This has been shown to be the case in every jurisdiction where euthanasia and assisted suicide is practiced. There will be casualties! People will die who did not chose to do so.
7. Euthanasia sends a negative message to the frail aged, the sick and the disabled. They need our compassion, protection and support and not the prospect that one day they may be deemed not worthy of living or feel that we no longer care.
8. What will it do to the medical profession when those that are trained to save lives become killers?
9. We need to increase the awareness of what palliative care can do and what it means. Taking the fear out of the dying process brings real dignity!

To contact your Senators and for more information [CLICK HERE](#).

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