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## COUNCIL ON THE AGEING



With Compliments

For your information  
 - Press Release to  
 the Australian.

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Council on the Ageing (Australia) appreciate the sensitive way in which the Chief Minister for the Northern Territory, Mr Marshall Perron, is introducing a Bill which will enable a terminally ill person to make a decision about their own future. The Bill will be available for community debate and this is the way it should be.

An initial examination of the Bill suggests that Mr Perron has gone to great lengths to protect the interests of individuals who wish to have a dignified death. Unfortunately, even with all the miracles of modern medicine, many people are condemned to painful and protracted death. Mr Perron, through his own personal experience of his own mother, has had the courage to raise this sensitive issue.

Areas of the Bill that do need examination are:

The requirement for a second practitioner to countersign the certificate. This second practitioner must not be in the same practice as the first signatory.

Clarification is needed on the wording in Section 8.2 which deals with the rescinding of a request.

Is there a case for a lawyer being involved so long as this does not make the process expensive or lengthy.

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Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden A.C. Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia