



SENATOR CAROL BROWN
Labor Senator for Tasmania

29 August 2011

Right Reverend John D Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania
Anglican Diocese of Tasmania
GPO Box 748
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Dear Right Reverend John D Harrower OAM

As you are aware, euthanasia is unlawful in Australia. States have legislative power in respect of euthanasia and it is currently an offence in each State to counsel or aid a person to commit suicide. Commonwealth laws are consistent with these State laws. The Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 contains offences for using a carriage service to access or distribute suicide-related material with the intention of counselling or inciting suicide, or providing instruction on a particular method of committing suicide.

I appreciate that euthanasia is a sensitive and complex issue and that members of the community have strong views about dying with dignity, compassion and with minimal pain.

It is appropriate that Members of Parliament be able to vote according to their conscience on this issue. The Labor Party has previously allowed Members of Parliament to express their views on this issue with a conscience vote on the substantive issue of euthanasia.

I appreciate you writing to me expressing the views of the Anglican Church of Tasmania on this matter.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Yours sincerely


Carol Brown
Labor Senator for Tasmania