

**Hon Bryan Green MP**

DEPUTY PREMIER

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**The Right Reverend John D Harrower OAM  
Bishop of Tasmania  
Anglican Diocese of Tasmania  
GPO Box 748  
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**7 SEP 2011**

Dear Bishop Harrower

Thank you for your letter of 16 August 2011 regarding euthanasia.

The Premier and Mr McKim will be introducing the Dying with Dignity Bill as a private members bill, not as a government bill and members will have a conscience vote.

When the Bill was introduced in 2009 by Mr McKim, I voted against it and I enclose a copy of the Hansard for your information.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely



**Bryan Green  
Minister**

Second Reading

7.31 p.m.]

**Mr GREEN** (Braddon) - I rise to make a contribution on this debate and say straight up that I will not be supporting the bill. That may surprise some people because I have supported every bit of progressive legislation that has come into this House. Like most other members, to talk about it at length would now perhaps be a bit silly in the circumstances. I have this feeling that a decision along these lines in effect, going back to my union days, is the thin end of the wedge. I have this nagging feeling that the progression of the legislation as it stands would in the end - not next week or next year, maybe in five years or a decade - lead to other decisions being made in our community that would have an effect on people who do not necessarily deserve to have that forced upon them. I am worried from that point of view. I am worried about the most vulnerable in the community. I know that behind closed doors others have an effect on people and for those reasons I think that legislation giving that right into the future would lead some people to react differently to others. In my heart of hearts, weighed against all of the palliative care options and the fact that we have moved so far forward in dealing with issues associated with people towards the end of their life, I have this nagging feeling that by supporting the bill I would be having a negative effect on people in the future.

I say all that on the basis that I have supported, and will continue to support, progressive legislation in this House. I have thought about this long and hard, as every other member has. I have read the report, I have gone to the library and read various publications about euthanasia and **◀dying▶**, and I have listened to other contributions that been made here tonight. Like Mr Gutwein, Mr Kons and others, when Mr McKim introduced the bill to the House I thought, 'I have a feeling that I'll probably end up supporting that bill', but having thought about it, considered it, agonised over it, I figured that it is the thin end of the wedge. I just feel that, over time, it will have a bad effect on others from the point of view of the way they think about death and other people. I am a compassionate person; I do not like to see any person suffer. As a result, I have faith that those people in the medical fraternity, particularly those in palliative care, will ensure that people can die with **◀dignity▶** and as a result of that I will not be supporting the bill.