

From:
Peter Still

My brother, Colin Still, had the intention of using voluntary euthanasia should he find himself in the situation of suffering from a terminal condition. As it turned out he developed a virulent brain tumor (*glioblastoma multiforme*) which was operated on leaving him diminished in several brain functions and unable to come home. A further operation was offered on the premise of improving his quality of life but did not eventuate. Over 6 months we watched him waste away with a decreasing mental capacity until he died in a palliative care facility. In that facility he was reduced to wearing a giant nappy and had his bed lowered to floor level as he kept falling out of it. Thus, anyone who came to visit him was treated to the sight of him at floor level, restlessly rolling back and forth calling for his mother. His last words to me were "Bring me some rat poison". I have no complaint about the way he was treated and am sure it was the best available. However, if he ever became debilitated, his chosen form of departure was to take his own life but as he was unable to come home, this was impossible. If he had had access to voluntary euthanasia, months of expensive and ineffective treatment could have been avoided. He was kept alive against his will and there was nothing he or we could do about it. He suffered needlessly and expensively for months when it could have ended as he wished, in a place and time of his choosing. He was 69.