Recently, the Supreme court of Canada unanimously ruled that laws prohibiting assisted suicide in that country are unconstitutional and need to be revoked. If the Canadian government does not revoke the existing laws in the next few months then the Supreme Court's ruling will become law and override the Parliament's existing legislation. This would be embarrassing if it were to happen here.

Australia and Canada share very similar legal systems and it is clear that Australians, like Canadians, would mostly prefer to have laws which, with good safeguards that have been developed in many countries permitting assisted suicide, would allow careful use of assisted suicide for people with severe or terminal illness, if death expected in the next few months.

Experience in those states in the USA where assisted suicide is legal have shown that the suicide rate generally decreases after such laws are passed. Most people who manage to acquire a bottle of Nembutal do not actually use it but never-the-less get good relief from the anxiety caused by fear of suffering at the end of life. Obtaining a bottle of Nembutal saves people from needing to suicide by violent means and, as most never actually take the drug, the suicide rate decreases.

A compassionate nation like Australia needs to legalise assisted suicide.