

SS95/1057

115 Colman St.,
Wodonga Vic. 3690

28th May, 1995

Dear Shane,

Josie will have passed on my warmest congratulations on attaining the top job in the top end - well done, everyone's very proud of you - especially Pam and Terry of course.

Thanks for the scarf you sent via Pam - very thoughtful of you and I appreciate it. Betty and I went over yesterday afternoon to see her although I'd already talked with her by telephone after she landed home. I'd earlier dropped over newspaper cuttings of events that occurred while she was away and thought she'd be interested in. She so enjoyed being away with you - especially the first-class air flight. She says she can't imagine ever sitting at the back of the plane again after such luxury!

I know you opposed the euthenasia bill but it's been overwhelmingly accepted in this area, as well as in Alice Springs. People welcome the safeguards built in through amendments but see it with relief as a door opening into sanity. I'd already given my Doctor (a couple of years ago) a signed statement that he wasn't to place me on a life support system, resuscitate me from a serious condition or allow me to remain a mindless vegetable - so personally I'm pleased about it too.

Anyway, good luck with the job which will not be easy and good luck with the swift introduction of palliative care. I was surprised to find in Alice Springs that most home and community services also are provided only by volunteers - the HACC services are so good because they keep people in their own homes and lessen the strain on institutions and hostels.

Best wishes,

Jean White



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2 June, 1995

Mrs Jean Whitla
115 Colman Street
WODONGA VICTORIA 3690

Dear Jean

Thank you for your very kind wishes on my recent election as the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

I greatly appreciate your message of support and be assured that I will work tirelessly on behalf of all Territorians in my new position.

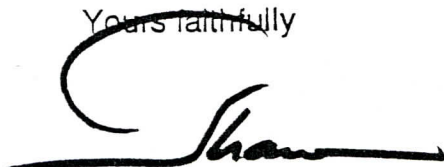
Your comments in relation to euthanasia are very interesting, however, it was not generally realised within the Territory that we have *The Natural Death Act* which was introduced in 1988. That Act already provides for everything that you support.

What worries me most about legislation such as that passed is that the public do not make the distinction between a doctor who may help a patient die as opposed to one that kills the patient. It may appear to be a subtle distinction but it is a very important one in that it says a great deal about the particular community in which one lives.

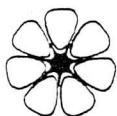
In any event, this is one issue that we probably won't agree on, and I do appreciate you writing to me.

In the event that I can ever be of any assistance, you should not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Shane L. Stone



Northern Territory Government