In 1995, the Parliament of the Northern Territory passed a law which reflected not only the will of Northern Territories, but also the strongly held views of the majority of all Australians. Every opinion poll conducted over the last two decades has shown that approximately three-quarters of Australians support the concept of voluntary euthanasia. A poll conducted by The Australia Institute in November 2012 found that 71 per cent of Australians support the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia for people experiencing unbelievable and incurable physical and/or mental suffering and that only 12 percent opposed. The survey also found that of those Australians who support the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia, 85 per cent also believe that terminally ill patients should have the option of choosing when they die.

Previous research has found that twenty two percent of respondents nationally have had a personal experience of a close relative or friend being hopelessly ill and wanting voluntary euthanasia. It has been consistently reported that each year hundreds of terminally ill people are assisted to an early and dignified death by compassionate medical professionals. This is an issue of great importance to many Australians and therefore all Australians should have, at the very least, the right to elect representatives to debate and make laws on this subject.

In 1995, the Northern Territory Assembly led the way in Australia by giving its citizens the option to end their suffering with dignity and medical support. In 1997, Canberra removed that right. This bill will redress that action and restore the legislative rights of the governments of the Northern Territory, the ACT and Norfolk Island to make decisions that both affect their citizens and reflect their views and concerns. In so doing, it reflects the heartfelt views of the majority of Australians on this important issue.

In 2011, the Parliament passed the Territories Self-Government Legislation Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment of Laws) Act 2011, introduced by the Australian Greens, which removed the power of the Federal executive to overturn legislation enacted by the legislative assemblies of the Territories. This bill further enhances the rights of Australian citizens in the ACT, Northern Territory and Norfolk Island to make legislation on those matters of importance to them without undue interference from the Federal government.

In particular, it should be noted that this bill does not restore the Northern Territory Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995. It does, however, restore the rights of the Northern Territory legislature to make laws about voluntary euthanasia in the future.

I commend the bill to the Senate.

Senator DI NATALE: I seek leave to continue my remarks later.
Leave granted; debate adjourned.

MOTIONS
Ukrainian Famine
Senator McEWEN: On behalf of Senator Bilyk, I move:
That the Senate—
(a) urges the Australian people to remember those who perished and suffered as a result of the Ukrainian Famine 1932-33 (Holodomor), as a reminder that we should always respect the freedoms bestowed upon us; and
(b) joins with the Ukrainian World Congress and the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations in calling on Australians to acknowledge the International Day of Remembrance on the last Saturday of November, gazetted by the Ukrainian Government in respect of those who suffered and perished in the great famine of 1932 33.
Question agreed to.
COMMITTEES
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Meeting
Senator McEWEN (South Australia—Government Whip in the Senate) (16:23): I move:
That the Community Affairs Legislation Committee be authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than
in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sittings of the Senate, as follows:
(a) on Monday, 26 November 2012, from 4.15 pm; and
(b) on Thursday, 29 November 2012, from 4.30 pm.
Question agreed to.

MOTIONS
Asylum Seekers
Senator HANSON-YOUNG (South Australia) (16:24): I move:
That the Senate—
(a) notes:
(i) that it is not illegal to arrive in Australia to seek asylum, and
(ii) previous attempts by the Australian Greens to have the use of the term 'illegal' in reference to asylum
seekers ruled as out of order in Senate debate; and
(b) calls on parliamentarians to refrain from using the misleading and inaccurate term 'illegal' when
referring to asylum seekers.
The Senate divided. [16:29]
(The President—Senator Hogg)
Ayes ...................... 35
Noes ...................... 28
Majority .............. 7 AYES
Bilyk, CL
Bishop, TM
Cameron, DN
Carr, KJ
Carr, RJ
Collins, JMA
Conroy, SM
Crossin, P
Di Natale, R
Farrell, D
Faukner, J
Furner, ML
Gallacher, AM
Hanson-Young, SC
Hogg, JJ
Ludlam, S
Lundy, KA
Madigan, JJ
Marshall, GM
McEwen, A (teller)
McLucas, J
Milne, C
Moore, CM
Polley, H
Rhiannon, L
Siewert, R
Singh, LM
Stephens, U
Sterle, G
Thistlethwaite, M
