other necessary action to ensure that appropriate public behaviour is maintained in the Stuart Park area, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Palliative Care Facilities

Mr STONE (Port Darwin): Mr Speaker, I present a petition from 320 citizens of the Northern Territory requesting that the Assembly implement best practice palliative care facilities in the Northern Territory and that members of the Legislative Assembly vote against the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill.* The petition bears the Clerk's certificate that it conforms with the requirements of standing orders. I do not propose that the petition be read as it is in similar terms to petitions presented earlier in these sittings.

Palliative Care Facilities

Mr STONE (Port Darwin): Mr Speaker, I present petitions from 26 and 11 Territorians respectively requesting that the Assembly implement best practice palliative care facilities in the Northern Territory and that members of the Assembly vote against the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill.* The petitions do not bear the Clerk's certificate. I do not propose that the petitions be read as they are in similar terms to petitions presented earlier in these sittings.

RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL BILL
(Serial 67)

Continued from 22 February 1995.

Mr HATTON (Nightcliff): Mr Speaker, one could say I drew the short straw to be first on the list to discuss this legislation. Nonetheless, like many people throughout the Northern Territory, I have pondered on and given considerable thought to this matter. I have read a multitude of competing views and interests and have been lobbied and subjected to emotional blackmail by both sides of the debate. In the last 3 months, it has been not unusual to receive, on a daily basis, correspondence from proponents of euthanasia referring to horrifying cases of people dying in agony and distress, and correspondence about the destruction of society from those who are opposed to the concept of euthanasia under any circumstances. It is incumbent on each of us to work our way through the mass of information put before us and to attempt to sort the wheat from the chaff. We need to analyse that material and determine what issues need to be addressed.

Firstly, we need to develop our view, as a matter of some principle, as to whether or not such a proposal is ethically or morally correct. Secondly, we need to determine whether something positive can be developed in accordance with that ethical or moral viewpoint that accurately reflects the interests of society in the long term. I will outline a series of these issues and address the opinion that is evolving within Australia and elsewhere in the world and also some of the key issues involved in the medical and legal ethics associated with the proposed legislative reform. Thirdly, we need to address some of the broader factors. Finally, we need to address the extensive amendments that have been proposed to the legislation to determine whether any combination of provisions within those amendments and the bill itself has the capacity to provide safe and good law in this regard for the Northern Territory.