

SAVES BULLETIN

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA SOCIETY INC. (SAVES)

'The right to die is as inviolable as the right to life'. Sir Mark Oliphant

South Australia: looking ahead

Where is SA now in terms of legalising voluntary euthanasia / voluntary assisted-dying? South Australia used to be the first in supporting progressive social reform but at the rate we're going we will be the last to make VAD legal! Victoria will implement its VAD law in June this year; WA completed its VAD Parliamentary Inquiry last year and now has an expert committee preparing guidelines for the legislation; Queensland has established a Parliamentary Committee; Tasmanian MPs are discussing a cross party Bill; NSW is currently silent following a Bill tabled by Nationals MLC Trevor Khan in the NSW Upper House in 2017 being defeated, 20 votes to 19. ACT and NT are unable to legislate for VAD, due to the 'Andrews Bill' thwarting the rights of territories to enact their own legislation.

Following the March 2018 State election, discussions are proceeding on the next steps for achieving end of life choice in South Australia. South Australian MPs now have just three years to the next election - two years effectively as action is unlikely in the year before the election - to deliver what 82% of its citizens continually support.

It is so important for all SAVES members and their friends and families to contact your local MP now and let them know how important this matter is to you and that you want them to support VE law reform.

For a succinct state by state overview of the legislative status of each state see SAVES website <https://www.saves.asn.au/state-update>. Further details on state initiatives are provided later in this Bulletin.

SAVES membership renewals are due in February each year

We look forward to your continuing support.

When making payments to SAVES through EFT please ensure that you include full details of your name and contact details

Thank you!

How voluntary assisted-dying influenced the Victorian 2018 election

Marshall Perron, former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory and architect of the first voluntary assisted-dying (VAD) law in Australia, explains the impact of VAD on the outcome of the Victorian election.

Many parliamentarians traditionally 'shy away' from supporting VAD. However, after legislating VAD in Victoria in 2018 (the first Australian state to do so), Premier Andrews won a huge victory. Multiple reasons account for this result, but they include the issue of VAD which has unprecedented 80-85% public support.

As Marshall Perron pointed out, almost all Liberal MPs in the previous Victorian parliament voted against legislative change and the party suffered an average 6.04% swing against it. Two of the staunchest opponents (Robert Clark and Inga Peulich) lost their seats. *Dying With Dignity* Victoria and Andrew Denton (Go Gentle Australia) ran targeted campaigns focusing on four electorates using Robo calls, advertising, social media and face to face meetings to inform voters about where their candidates stood on VAD.

The four Liberal candidates who all opposed VAD suffered a 10.1% drop in primary votes compared with the average overall drop of 6.04%. While

the Liberal sitting member lost his seat, the sitting Labor and Greens members in the other three seats, who all supported VAD, were returned with significantly increased votes.

SAVES has informed state MPs of these findings: that candidates can increasingly expect to lose support when they ignore the wishes of the voters they seek to represent.

References:

Marshall Perron: Media Release available at <https://dwdnsw.org.au/how-voluntary-assisted-dying-influenced-the-victorian-election/>

Francis, N 2019: 'How voluntary assisted dying influenced the Victorian election' 4 Jan 2019 <http://www.dyingforchoice.com/blogs/how-voluntary-assisted-dying-influenced-victorian-election>

Just a reminder...

SAVES public meetings are held twice-yearly at 2.15 pm on Sunday afternoons at the Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide.

These are important forums for updating members on SAVES' activities, legislative issues and relevant local, national and international events and initiatives.

Guest speakers provide further interest, as well as to informal discussion over tea and coffee.

The next meeting is highlighted on page 3

Make a diary note now!

Report reveals that legalising voluntary assisted-dying supports palliative care

Australia has one of the best palliative care systems in the world. However, as Palliative Care Australia recognises, it "cannot relieve all pain and suffering even with optimal care." For that small percentage of patients who cannot be helped, the suffering at the end of life can be extreme. Legalising VE would allow patients another choice. This should apply, just as it is in overseas jurisdictions where law reform has been successfully implemented, as an option of last resort decided upon by patients and their doctors.

Unsubstantiated claims are made that legalising VE or VAD undermines palliative care provision. However, as reported on previously in the SAVES Bulletin, in 2011 the European Association of Palliative Care stated that research into palliative and hospice care in countries with permissive legislation was increased in the following years. Palliative care funding has been strengthened in the Netherlands and has doubled in Belgium. A review in the USA found that states with VAD laws rank very highly in the provision of palliative care. Research covering six European countries concluded that VAD legislation does not undermine the provision of palliative care.

This earlier reporting has been augmented by findings in a recently commissioned report by Palliative Care Australia on the experience internationally of the palliative care sector following the legalisation of VE and VAD. The following jurisdictions were included within the scope of the report: Oregon (USA); Washington State (USA); the Netherlands; Belgium; Canada; and Quebec Province, Canada. This wide-ranging report provided the following key learnings:

- An assessment of the palliative care sectors following the introduction of voluntary assisted-dying in the jurisdictions of Oregon and Washington (USA), The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Quebec "provided no evidence to suggest that palliative care sectors were adversely impacted by the introduction of the legislation. If anything, in jurisdictions where assisted-dying is available, the palliative care sector has further advanced."
- "There are consistently high levels of patient involvement in palliative care services at the time of death through assisted-dying: 90.9% of Oregonians and 88% of patients in Washington State were enrolled in palliative care and 70.9% of patients in Belgium."
- These statistics run counter to the argument that voluntary assisted-dying may be used by patients in circumstances where palliative care is not available.

NOTICE OF SAVES APRIL 2019 PUBLIC MEETING

The SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)
holds public meetings twice yearly at

The Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide

The next public meeting will be held on

Sunday April 7th 2019 at 2.15 pm

Guest speaker will be Nick McBride MP (Lib) Member for Mackillop
speaking on the topic:

Achieving voluntary euthanasia legislation

Tea and coffee will be served following the meeting. Bring a friend!

SAVES 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on November 3rd 2019

- Implementation of VAD legislation “reveals an increased focus on, and public policy attention towards, end-of-life care... It may drive a stronger focus on upholding patient choice and autonomy, and there may be opportunities to introduce system improvements in palliative care.”
- “In some jurisdictions there is evidence that after the introduction of assisted-dying legislation, physicians have sought to improve their knowledge and understanding of end-of-life support services.”
- There is no evidence of a ‘slippery slope’: “Whilst it is noted that there have been amendments to eligibility criteria over time, there is no evidence that assisted dying has substituted for palliative care due to an erosion of safeguards.”

The report gave key considerations for the palliative care sector; one being to integrate voluntary assisted-dying as a component of end-of-life care services.

SAVES has always held that palliative care and VE / VAD are complementary concepts of care. SAVES’ pamphlet “Hospice, Palliative Care, Voluntary Euthanasia – Concepts of Care”, compiled over 20 years ago states:

Voluntary euthanasia, hospice and palliative care have a common interest in dignified dying; compassion for suffering; and concern for quality of life. Above all, they share a deep commitment to patient autonomy, to giving patients what they recognise is good for them, rather than requiring them to live (and die) as seems good to others.

SAVES is a longstanding member of Palliative Care SA; acknowledging the organisation’s critical

role in providing compassionate end of life care. SAVES has provided an overview of the findings of this latest report on the interface between palliative care and voluntary assisted-dying to SA MPs: as part of the wide-ranging newsletters sent to all members in each parliamentary sitting week.

References:

SAVES original pamphlet (1990s) “Hospice, Palliative Care, Voluntary Euthanasia – Concepts of Care” (scanned copy available on request)

SAVES current pamphlet on Palliative Care: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1_c3b-4ca7d09ea46b0bac450c466670389.pdf

Palliative Care Australia: *Experience internationally of the legalisation of assisted-dying on the palliative care sector*. Final Report by Aspex Consulting 28th October 2018 Available on SAVES’ website at: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1_e34187f71f5442698f9d1326eb2bed94.pdf

Other related references are available on request.

Interstate news

New South Wales

The *NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill* 2017 failed to pass in the NSW Upper House by just one vote; the same slim margin as in SA. All MPs were given a conscience vote (apart from the five Greens members who supported it as party policy and the two Christian Democrats who opposed it as their party policy). The final vote, taken at 11.15 pm on Thursday 16 November 2017, was 19 votes in favour, 20 opposed.

It was a private member’s bill introduced by Nationals MP Trevor Khan, a member of the *Parliamentary Working Group on Assisted Dying* which had developed the bill over two years, in consultation with key stakeholders. Dying with Dignity NSW advises that Mr Khan vowed in his speech in Parliament, just prior to the final vote, not to walk away from the issue, but to reintroduce a voluntary assisted dying bill in the next term of Parliament (following the 2019 state election).

Tasmania

Dying with Dignity Tasmania advises that it has started working with Tasmanian MPs towards the next Voluntary Assisted-Dying Bill. They continue to support a co-sponsored Bill, with consensus from across the political spectrum in the Parliament and key community groups about what best meets the needs and wishes of Tasmanians; while also preventing any perceived risks. Nationwide support for a legal option of VAD includes the vast majority of Tasmanians from across different political and religious affiliations, age groups and gender.

In December the Daily Mail reported that Tasmania's Liberal Premier Will Hodgman, who in 2017 voted against a bill, has indicated that he would now be willing to work with the Labor opposition and the Greens to facilitate change. However, long-standing proponent of law reform, Marshall Perron, is concerned that Mr Hodgman could frustrate the attempts to allow assisted-dying being led by Tasmanian Greens leader Cassy O'Connor. He stated:

I am skeptical about the leopard changing his spots but would like to see it happen... The last time the Tasmanian Parliament voted on the issue, 100 per cent of Liberals voted no despite 85 per cent of their constituents wanting them to vote yes.

An article in the Daily Mail last December reported that “Tasmania's euthanasia bill would pass with the support of Liberal Speaker Sue Hickey even if government MPs, who are being given a conscience vote, opposed it.”

Reference

Johnson, S ‘The domino effect: Tasmania could join Victoria in legalising voluntary euthanasia as bill gathers cross party support’, Daily Mail 31 Dec 2018 <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6540823/Tasmania-join-Victoria-legalising-voluntary-euthanasia-bill-cross-party-support.html>

Queensland

Dying with Dignity Queensland advises that in October 2018 the Clem Jones Trust commissioned a statewide survey conducted by ReachTEL, a highly reputable polling company. Adults from

each of the 93 Queensland electorates were surveyed with results consistently showing over 80% support for VAD. It was the first Queensland-only reputable poll, and DWD Queensland believes that this polling influenced the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's decision on 14th November 2018 to announce a parliamentary inquiry. As part of the 12 month inquiry, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee will consider whether Queensland should legalise VAD.

This process will be similar to the *Victorian Inquiry into End of Life Choices* that led to the passage of the Voluntary Assisted-dying Act in late 2017. The Queensland Committee is due to report by November 30th, 2019. The inquiry will call for public submissions to canvass the views of the community and health professionals on the need for VAD. The legal framework of the Victorian law will be examined as part of the inquiry's terms of reference, as will reviews and reports from other Australian states and territories; as well as overseas jurisdictions where these laws have been implemented.

Queensland has not yet debated a voluntary assisted-dying bill but with the support of *Dying with Dignity* Queensland and the \$5 million trust fund left by former Brisbane lord mayor Clem Jones for a campaign, the state may shortly follow Victorian and Western Australia and introduce a compassionate law.

References:

DWD NSW: Queensland Premier launches End of Life Choices Inquiry <https://dwdnsw.org.au/queensland-premier-launches-end-of-life-choices-inquiry/>

DWD Queensland Newsletter November 2018 <https://dwdq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/DWDQ-NEWSLETTER-November-2018.pdf>

Victoria

After the successful Victorian legislation Andrew Denton from GoGentle Australia argued that the Andrews Government's progressive social policies were significant for driving VAD reform in Australia; stating:

It shattered, once and for all, the myth propagated by Right to Life and others, that VAD is electoral poison. The fact that some of the largest swings to Labor occurred in the four seats targeted by DWD Vic suggests the opposite... The eventual effect on the rest of Australia will, I believe, be significant as long as there is a determination from principled politicians to pursue evidence-based policy-making... Victoria's law happened because enough people of principle stood up for those too ill to stand up for themselves. Today we stand taller.

The Victorian law is being implemented on June 19 this year, and Melbourne's Alfred Hospital has been given sole responsibility for importing, preparing and supplying all the required drugs. According to the Acting Health Minister Martin Foley, having one access point for the medication would promote the safety of the program. A small team of pharmacists operating out of the Alfred Hospital will travel to locations throughout the state to provide the relevant information and medication.

References

Andrew Denton 'Today we stand taller' November 2018 GoGentle Australia: https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/today_we_stand_taller
Dow, A 'Lethal medication sourced for Victoria's voluntary euthanasia scheme' The Age, Jan 4th 2019 See: Assisted dying drug plan revealed.

Bequests to SAVES

A bequest to SAVES is a significant gift furthering the primary aim of the society to achieve law reform allowing choice for voluntary euthanasia.

The appropriate wording for the gift of a specific sum is *I bequeath to the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. the sum of \$.....*

In the unlikely event that you wish to leave your entire estate to SAVES it would read *I give, devise and bequeath the whole of my real and personal estate to the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc.*

Western Australia

The November 2018 edition of SAVES Bulletin advised that the report of the Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, entitled 'My Life, My Choice', had been tabled in WA Parliament on 23rd August with 52 findings. It made 24 recommendations, including that legislation should be introduced to:

provide for self-administration of lethal medication where an eligible person is physically able to self-administer. In cases where the person is eligible but physically incapable of self-administration, the legislation should permit a doctor to administer the lethal medication.

Health Minister Roger Cook stated that the Government planned to introduce legislation into state parliament in the second half of 2019. The Bill would be drafted in consultation with a panel of experts and MPs would be offered a conscience vote. Minister Cook stated:

The McGowan Government is committed to ensuring that Western Australians have access to high-quality end-of-life and palliative care... The introduction of a voluntary assisted-dying Bill will provide those individuals who are experiencing grievous and irremediable suffering associated with advanced and progressive terminal conditions with an additional choice... Introducing this legislation is a complex and challenging task. The expert panel is essential for framing the legislation to best suit and safely serve the needs of the Western Australian community.

The expert panel will be led by former Western Australian Governor Malcolm McCusker QC, together with ten experts in the areas of aged care, medicine and law; including South Australian palliative care expert Dr Roger Hunt. It will also consider allowing voluntary assisted-dying for patients with chronic illness and neurological conditions. The model would also see an oversight body established to review all deaths that occur under the system.

Members of Parliament from Labor, the Greens, the Liberals and Nationals have previously backed voluntary assisted-dying. Mr Cook said

he believed there was a very real prospect of the legislation passing, and that he was encouraged by the experience in Victoria. He also noted the wide community support of approximately 85 per cent. Mr McCusker said that the panel would prioritise two key factors and noted:

Throughout the world there are different approaches taken to this kind of legislation... What we want to ensure and we want to advise the Government on is a form of legislation which brings into account at least two important qualities; one being safety and one being compassion.

References

McKnight, G Assisted dying: WA politicians to vote on legalising euthanasia in 2019, Mandurah Mail 14/11/2018

<https://www.mandurahmail.com.au/story/5758178/assisted-dying-wa-politicians-to-vote-on-legalising-euthanasia-in-2019/>

Laschon, E Voluntary euthanasia bill set to be introduced to WA Parliament in bid to legalise assisted dying, ABC News 12/11/2018 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-12/voluntary-euthanasia-legislation-announced-by-wa-government/10488400>

Views of Australian Politicians: new research

A research team from the Australian Centre for Health Law Research has published an article in the University of New South Wales Law Journal which explores how Australian politicians approach the issue of voluntary euthanasia and assisted-dying. It follows a 2016 paper by the authors in which they predicted:

VE law reform is likely to occur in Australia. There is a convergence of factors that make this issue increasingly difficult for politicians to ignore: high and sustained public support for reform in Australia; an ageing and increasingly informed population seeking choices for their end-of-life experience; the changing legal landscape internationally; and the media's interest in the topic and, particularly for social media, its agitation for change. These factors are evidenced by an increasing trend of parliamentary activity

in this area such as through the introduction of Bills, the release of exposure drafts of Bills and the establishment of select committees. And once the first state or territory enacts legislation, others are likely to follow.

The authors' latest paper maps the pro-and anti-voluntary euthanasia and assisted-dying arguments advanced by Australian politicians, beginning with the introduction of the first voluntary euthanasia Bill. The authors argue [verbatim] that:

- Politicians' personal views on euthanasia should not drive the debate.
- Issues of public concern, such as the impact on vulnerable people, should instead be at the forefront. Parliament's role is to protect the vulnerable if laws are changed.
- If legalised, individuals are free to reject euthanasia as an option for themselves based on their own personal beliefs.
- Conscience votes on euthanasia are not optimal, but may remain the only way to decide the issue.

In an article on the future of assisted-dying law reform in Australia, two of the authors conclude that voluntary assisted-dying in Australia is 'a train that has left the station'. However, they also caution:

...despite the suggestions that reform is travelling in the direction of legalising VAD, we should expect surprises in the politics of assisted dying... The late changes of position that saw support for reform recently disappearing in the parliaments of South Australia and the Commonwealth also show how illusory the task of securing and maintaining consensus on VAD reform is. Although reform in other Australian states is likely, the train journey will be one that is slow, uphill and with plenty of twists and turns.

References

McGee A, Purser k, Stackpoole C, White B Willmott L& Davis J, Informing the euthanasia debate: perceptions of Australian politicians, University of NSW Law Journal 41 (4) 1368-1417 <https://eprints.qut.edu.au/95429/http://>

www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/McGee-et-al.pdf

Willmott L, White B, Stackpoole C, Purser K, McGee A (2016) (Failed) Voluntary euthanasia law reform in Australia: Two decades of trends, models and politics. University of NSW Law Journal 39: 1-46.

White B, Willmott L (2018) Future of assisted-dying reform in Australia, Australian Health Review 42: 616- 620 <http://www.publish.csiro.au/ah/pdf/AH18199>

The VE Bulletin is available by email:

Please consider this option to reduce postage costs. Email: info@saves.asn.au to receive future editions by email.

Thank you

International news

USA

Death with Dignity USA reports that in the first two weeks of 2019 Hawaii's *Our Care, Our Choice* Act went into effect, and Aid in Dying bills were introduced in Indiana and Utah. Hawaii is now the seventh U.S. jurisdiction to have a death with dignity statute. Also, in late 2018 in New Mexico, state legislators pre-filed a death with dignity bill in both chambers of the state legislature.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has chosen to reject the value-laden term 'assisted suicide' when characterising a situation where a patient has decided to end their life and suffering. The academy is choosing to describe such an action as 'medical aid in dying'. Dr Michael Munger president of the Academy stated:

Through our ongoing and continuous relationship with our patients, family physicians are well-positioned to counsel patients on end-of-life care, and we are engaged in creating change in the best interest of our patients.

The Academy has adopted a neutral position on whether individual states should allow medical aid in dying. However it stated that it would support laws that protect physicians from criminal prosecution for assisting terminally ill patients in ‘ending their suffering’ in states where such actions are permitted. The change was passed by the two-thirds majority required for any vote that differs from the American Medical Association's ethical policies. The AMA code of ethics still opposes ‘assisted suicide.’ Dr Julia Sokoloff, a member of the Washington Academy of Family Physicians, who introduced the resolution, stated:

Changing our position to 'engaged neutrality' shows that our members can respectfully disagree about medical aid in dying, but still agree about our role in supporting our patients no matter what care they choose at the end of life.

Canada

As in all jurisdictions allowing VE and VAD, Canadian doctors who for moral or religious reasons object to voluntary assisted-dying are not obligated to assist. However, in some provinces patients must be provided with the information necessary to access the law. For example, in Manitoba the patient should be given ‘timely access to a resource that will provide accurate information about medical assistance in dying.’ This could be providing a telephone number, email address or website for a third-party health organization.

In June 2016, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) approved its policy statement on medical assistance in dying. The guidelines require physicians who oppose assisted-dying to provide patients who request it with what is called an ‘effective referral.’ This is a timely referral made in good faith, to a non-objecting, available, and accessible physician, nurse practitioner or agency.

In 2016 a group led by the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada (CMDSC) filed a lawsuit against effective referral, claiming that requiring an objecting doctor to provide an effective referral is ‘unconscionable’ and represents a “violation of that physician’s Charter right to freedom of conscience and/or freedom of religion.” However,

in a 2018 decision judges ruled unanimously that the CPSO’s policy is legally justified. Justice Herman J. Wilton-Siegel stated:

The evidence in the record establishes a real risk of a deprivation of equitable access to health care, particularly on the part of the more vulnerable members of our society, in absence of the effective referral requirements of the policy.

The CMSDC subsequently filed for appeal, and the case is expected to be heard by the highest court in Ontario in 2019.

References

USA

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/healthpolicy/75632>

Canada

https://www.dyingwithdignity.ca/effective_referrals_for_medical_assistance_in_dying

DONATIONS TO SAVES

SAVES members continue to be generous donors towards the society's campaign for law reform. The different initiatives and ongoing work incur considerable costs, even though the society is staffed entirely by volunteers.

All donations, large and small, are always welcome and much appreciated.

Thank you!

Vale Rosemary

SAVES sadly advises the death of committee member and information officer Rosemary Doolan last December. Rosemary provided valuable assistance through circulating information to the committee and providing assistance to students. SAVES sincerely appreciates her generous donation to SAVES as an expression of her commitment to law reform. We will miss her friendship and contribution. SAVES welcomes long-standing member, **Kip Fuller**, to the committee. We thank her for ‘stepping up’ to assist.

End of Life Choice



French research on attitudes to voluntary euthanasia

Recently published research involving face-to-face interviews with 78 patients (equal male / female cohort) in both a hospital and non-hospital setting sought a wide range of information. This included their belief in God, their family circumstances, pain experienced, types of treatment, and their use of advance directives for healthcare.

- Factors which influenced the patients' acceptance of voluntary euthanasia were: age (being under 60 years); an absence in the belief of God; and previous experience with chemotherapy. The authors' conclusion was that *young people who do not believe in God and have a history of chemotherapy are more likely to request the discontinuation or restriction of their treatment.*
- Nearly a third of Australians (39% of whom were young adults aged 18-34) reported in the 2016 ABS census that they held no religion.
- Arguably it is reasonable to consider Australia's future response to requests for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying within the context of these diverse perspectives on religious or absence of religious beliefs and allow the freedom to choose.
- Those who hold religious objections to voluntary assisted dying or voluntary euthanasia currently have the law supporting them in their objection. However, those who do not share these religious beliefs or objections are being hindered by the existing law which is therefore anti-democratic.

*SAVES thanks Dr Sandra Bradley RN, PhD for details of the research highlighted above.
For further information see:*

Reference:

- de Nonneville, et al. (2018) entitled *Determinants of favorable or unfavourable opinion about euthanasia in a sample of French cancer patients receiving palliative care* (de Nonneville et al. *BMC Palliative Care* (2018), vol. 17:104 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-018-0357-6>)
- 2016 Australian Census (<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mediareleasesbyReleaseDate/7E65A144540551D7CA258148000E2B85>)

SAVES

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society

saves.asn.au



*Compassion for suffering
The freedom to choose
Add your voice to the call*



SAVES was established in 1983 to campaign for legal, medically assisted voluntary euthanasia. The aim is to end suffering by providing choice in dying. SAVES works in the community and with Members of Parliament to achieve law reform.

SAVE-YA Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates

Facebook: Support SAVE-YA Law Reform

A national youth lobby group which aims to provide a youth voice in support of legalising voluntary euthanasia in all States and Territories. Members between ages 18 and 35 are encouraged to join, make contact with their local MP and inform them of their support for voluntary euthanasia law reform.



Christians Supporting Choice For Voluntary Euthanasia

christiansforve.org.au

We are Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with legal voluntary assisted dying / voluntary euthanasia. This is strongly supported by the majority of Australian Christians.



South Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

We are a group of passionate nurses who believe in our patient's right to choose the end of life care they wish. The group provides a forum for the nursing voice and perspective on legalising voluntary euthanasia and other patient choices in end of life care.



MY BODY MY Choice-VE

facebook.com/pages/MY-BODY-MY-Choice-VE

MBMC provides a voice for people with disability in the VE reform debate. MBMC represents the interests of people with disabilities who wish to exercise choice in all aspects of their life, including choice at the end of life, with the view that choice and control are a fundamental human right for everyone.

MBMC argues that people with disabilities know how it feels to lose personal autonomy through their ongoing fight for self-determination, independent living and disability rights.

MBMC believes that people with disabilities, who have struggled to control their own lives and bodies, must be allowed to maintain control and autonomy throughout their life, especially at its end.



Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice

drs4assisteddyingchoice.org



We are a national organisation of Australian medical practitioners, both current and retired, who are committed to having a legal choice of providing information and assistance to rational adults, who, for reasons of no realistic chance of cure or relief from intolerable symptoms, would like to gently end their lives.

Assistance may be by doctor provision of medication for the patient to consume, or by doctor-administration.

Respecting rational patient end-of-life choices

Lawyers for Death with Dignity

saves.asn.au/lawyers

Lawyers for Death with Dignity acknowledges the need for people with profound suffering to have the legal choice for a medically assisted and dignified death.

The current law says suicide is not illegal, but assisting suicide is. People in a terminal state may have profound, unbearable suffering and be in the undignified position of being unable to end their life without assistance.

Advances in medicine have improved life expectancy, but South Australian law has not changed to reflect the often forgotten deterioration in quality of life that a longer life expectancy may bring.



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying is an advocacy group promoting the rights of people to make decisions regarding their end of life wishes.

To go without pain, without trauma, without breaking the law, without endangering others and without suffering. To go gently, peacefully and with dignity.

We support good palliative care, encourage the use of Advance Care Directives and advocate for law reform to legalise the choice for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying.

SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. Membership Form

Print and post or join online at <https://www.saves.asn.au>

- New Membership Renewal

Surname, including Mr/Mrs/Ms etc

Given Name(s)

Address

Suburb/Town & Post Code

Telephone

Email address

Year of Birth (Optional)

Membership Payment:

Annual membership is due at the end of February. Payment for two or more years is welcome, and is calculated by multiples of the annual fee – please mark accordingly

- \$30.00 Single Membership (\$15.00 concession) -----
 \$40.00 Couple Membership (\$20.00 concession) -----
 \$350.00 Life Membership Single
 \$500.00 Life Membership Couple
 Additional Donation to support the work of SAVES-----
TOTAL -----

Payment Options:

Cheques and money orders made payable to SAVES and send with this form to:

- SAVES Membership Officer, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071**

Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer:

- Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 129 Account Number 00901742**

PLEASE LODGE THIS FORM, along with EFT payment advice either via email to info@saves.asn.au or via Australia Post

How did you hear about us? _____

Do you have an area of expertise that could be of help to SAVES? _____

Do you wish to receive the Bulletin by post or email?-----

SAVES' members support the society's primary objective which is a change in the law, so that in appropriate circumstances and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgement and conscience of the doctor.

SAVES' Primary Objective:

A change to the law in South Australia so that in appropriate circumstances, and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgment and conscience of the doctor.



Committee:

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Arnold Gillespie

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