



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

'Agonisingly close': VE Bill narrowly fails

The above words headed a media release by Greens MLC Mark Parnell on 19th November 2009 in response to the narrow failure of the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care (Voluntary Euthanasia) Amendment Bill 2008* in the Legislative Council on 18th November. He stated:

This is a bitter sweet result... To have the Bill voted down is such a big disappointment, especially for all those in the community who have been striving for this law reform over many years. Yet, to come so close is a sure sign that one day, very soon, the South Australian Parliament will pass death with dignity laws.

Several SAVES members attended the parliamentary proceedings in support of the Bill. The final vote was 11 to 9 with Independent Hon Ann Bressington abstaining; honouring her commitment that her support for the Bill was contingent upon the passage of all her amendments. Mark Parnell flagged his intention to reintroduce a Bill following the March election, stating:

INSIDE

VE Bill narrowly fails	1
Lobby your candidates	2
Senate submission on suicide	2
A.V.E.S. National Conference	4
New SA doctors group	5
President's report November meeting	5
'Dying with a clear mind'	6
Upcoming events: SAVES needs your help!	7
News and membership: Christians Supporting Choice for VE	8
A.V.E.S. National Conference program	10
Membership, AGM details and guest speaker	11
SAVES primary aims and committee members	12

The vast majority of South Australians want voluntary euthanasia law reform. I strongly believe it's just a matter of time before compassionate legislation is passed in our state.

Below is the voting outcome. **Please note that names of members up for re-election on March 20th this year are in bold type:**

For (9):

Parnell (Green), **Winderlich (Ind)**, **Gago (Lab)**, Darley (Ind), Hunter (Lab), Dawkins (Lib), **Gazzola (Lab)**, Lensink (Lib), Wortley (Lab).

Against (11):

Hood (FF), **Brokenshire (FF)**, **Finnigan (Lab)**, Lucas (Lib), **Holloway (Lab)**, Zollo (Lib), **Stephens (Lib)**, **Schaeffer (Lib) not standing**, **Lawson (Lib) not standing**, **Ridgway (Lib)**, **Wade (Lib)**

Abstained (1): Bressington (Ind)

SAVES issued a media release on 19th November stating that voluntary euthanasia legislation will be reintroduced in 2010, and that the society will 'press on with its 26 year campaign to get legal voluntary euthanasia in this state', and that 'all politicians should know that this issue will not go away'. In this media release, and pre-empting this edition of the VE Bulletin, vice president Mary Gallnor stated:

In the lead up to the state election all SAVES members will be advised of supporting MPs and prospective MPs to assist them in casting their votes. We remind MPs and candidates that it is far better to have a legalized system rather than the nudge-nudge, wink-wink, ad hoc approach that currently exists. We also remind them that the magic word is 'voluntary' and we hope that some more open-minded MPs will be elected come 20th March next year.

It's not too late to lobby your candidates

When asking your candidates “*Do you support the legalizing of voluntary euthanasia?*” you are telling them that this is an important issue for you as a constituent. By listing candidate responses on the SAVES website we reinforce that this is an issue needing their attention.

Candidates may think to reply along the lines of seeing a VE Bill first before committing themselves & of course their support at the time of voting on such a Bill would hinge on its details but the question above still stands to be answered. Candidate names & contact details can be obtained through the Electoral Commission SA <http://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au> OR 7424 7400 or 1300 655 232 (cost of a local call)

SAVES is not affiliated with Exit International / Dr Philip Nitschke and opposes the public availability of a ‘peaceful pill’.

Senate submission on suicide in Australia

The Senate Community Affairs Committee is holding an inquiry into suicide in Australia. Former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Marshall Perron agreed to the following summary of main points being published in this edition of the *VE Bulletin* as it addresses an aspect of suicide rarely acknowledged or discussed in Australia. The terms of reference for the review include:

- The impact of suicide on the Australian community.
- The personal, social and financial costs of suicide.
- The accuracy of suicide reporting.
- The role and effectiveness of agencies in assisting people at risk.

- The effectiveness of public awareness programs encouraging help seeking and enhancing public discussion of suicide.
- The adequacy of the current program of research into suicide and suicide prevention, and related matters.

Preamble:

It would be wrong to believe that every instance of suicide is a tragic event and that governments must do everything in their power to stop individuals taking their own lives. Rational suicide exists. The overwhelming majority of Australians not only accept that rational suicide exists; they reserve the option for themselves if their end of life circumstances warrant. They also want to access appropriate lethal drugs to do so peacefully.

This submission refers only to the issue of rational suicide by competent adults. That rational suicide exists is indisputable with professional polling revealing over 80% of Australians accept there are circumstances where a competent adult reasonably and rationally would, and should, be legally able to receive assistance to take their own life; with the law no longer reflecting prevailing attitudes. The peak body for palliative care, Palliative Care Australia acknowledges the existence of rational suicide in its policy statement on euthanasia. Quote - “Recognises and respects the fact that some people rationally and consistently request deliberate ending of life.”

Thirty per cent of all Australian deaths are preceded by an action or omission explicitly intended to end a patient’s life. Most people believe they should be able to make that decision for themselves. The terms “tragic, heartbreaking, worrying, unacceptable, unnecessary” all spring to mind when thinking about the impact of suicide on our community. I add just one word when referring to suicide by the terminally or hopelessly ill – “shameful”. Shameful that our supposedly

sophisticated society compels some to die an undignified tortuous natural death or take their own lives violently and alone. Shameful that politicians have mostly ignored the many pleas of courageous dying citizens who have exposed their miserable lives publicly to call for compassionate law reform.

Quantifying the personal cost of suicide by a terminally ill individual is probably impossible however we can consider the following. A competent adult breaches no law when taking their own life however it is unlawful for anyone to assist them. This deficiency has serious consequences which cause misery and anguish in our society today. Examples are common of terminally ill individuals scheming to be alone to suicide without interference. Fear of loved ones being implicated in unlawful acts also leads to planning to suicide secretly without consultation or goodbyes. ABS statistics show that Australians 75 and older suicide at the rate of 3 a week. Most hang themselves, the next most common method used is firearms, then comes gas, poison, drowning, jumping from buildings etc. Less violent yet equally traumatic methods to suicide like refusing food and fluid have long been used. It appears that the law in Australia allows a person opting to die this way to be lawfully assisted by being kept in a coma until death. A recent court decision in Western Australia has confirmed that a competent adult can choose to suicide by refusing nourishment. This case highlights just how obnoxious the current law is. A doctor can lawfully assist a patient endure the process of dying slowly over 2 weeks yet they cannot lawfully assist them die in minutes by prescribing appropriate drugs.

Terminal sedation, as it is called is common practice in Palliative Care institutions. To my knowledge no statistics are kept and most institutions will claim it occurs rarely. However one looks at it, terminal sedation is slow euthanasia, usually without patient consent.

The inaccuracy of suicide statistics is well documented including footnotes in ABS publications on suicide. It would be reasonable to conclude that a number of the unquantifiable road accidents thought to be suicide would be persons who were, or thought they were, terminally ill. In the absence of a law permitting terminally ill adults to gain access to medical assistance to die, there has been a search for new methods to induce a tranquil death. The use of inert gas is proving to be successful and is believed to leave no detectable trace in the body.

The ABS has progressively reduced the details on suicide available to the public over the past 15 years. This surprising restriction is contrary to what statistics are collected for. The collection of statistics is aimed at building a factual knowledge base to enable the public, policy makers and politicians to build a better society. I believe that the difficulty of identifying suicides that leads to inaccurate statistics is the lesser part of the problem. In my view the voluntary restrictions on media reporting of suicide has led to a misconception about how serious suicide and the consequence of suicide is in our community. I agree there should be a code of reporting suicide directed at preventing the glorification of suicide in any way to minimise so called copycat acts by unstable individuals. I believe the current practice has gone too far the other way resulting in potentially useful community debate being stifled. A logical starting point to enhance public discussion of suicide would be to revisit current policies that restrict how suicide is reported in the media.

The group who should be discussing rational suicide but are not, are politicians. My observation is that with rare exception, politicians avoid the issue whenever they can. Anxious to avoid antagonising a religious minority in their electorate the easy thing to do is nothing. They try to ignore the subject in the hope it will go

away. The community is not asking politicians to lead on this issue, they are asking them to catch up. Hopefully this Senate inquiry will trigger a change in attitude by politicians. The Senate committee should not dismiss my submission on the spurious grounds that with the availability of good palliative care no one should or would opt to take their own lives. Even the peak Palliative care body in Australia does not believe that.

The message Australian law sends to the terminally ill is *“There is no law against suicide, you can refuse food and fluid and die slowly in a week or two. You can hang, drown, gas or electrocute yourself, choose whatever method you want but society will punish anyone who assists you in any way. You are on your own.”*

It is hard to imagine another issue that would come near the overwhelming level of support that voluntary euthanasia has. That our parliaments have, despite a decade of prompting, refused to positively address this issue is deplorable. Suicide is a complex and vexing matter requiring ongoing funding, research and discussion to minimise the harm most of it does in our society. There is however a small group for whom an early death is a welcome blessing. Accommodating their needs may just lead to a more enlightened debate about suicide generally.

Four recommendations were made in the submission:

- 1) This committee recommends the Federal Parliament returns to the Australian Territories the powers to legislate for voluntary euthanasia that were withdrawn in 1997.
- 2) Recommends each Australian State Parliament establishes a law reform committee to prepare draft legislation enabling competent terminally ill adults to access medical assistance to die subject to appropriate safeguards.
- 3) Recommends the Government commission comprehensive national research to quantify the incidence of:

- Suicide by persons with a terminal illness.
- Death caused by the administration of drugs intended to relieve suffering. (Double effect)
- Death caused by withdrawing medical life support measures.
- Death caused by a decision not to administer life prolonging treatment.
- The administration of life ending drugs at the patient’s request.
- The administration of life ending drugs without patient request.
- The practice of terminal sedation and other related matters.

- 4) Recommends the Commonwealth Criminal Code (Suicide Related Material Offences) be reviewed to remove any provisions that make it unlawful for competent adults to engage in debate and access information relating to suicide.

A.V.E.S. National Conference

The highly successful Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Societies (AVES) three day National Conference held in Adelaide from Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th October, and organised by SAVES, was attended by executives and other invited delegates from:

- Northern Territory VES
- Dying with Dignity NSW
- Dying with Dignity Queensland
- Dying with Dignity Tasmania
- Dying with Dignity Victoria
- Western Australia VES

Sincere thanks go to Debra Millikan and Arnold Gillespie for their highly professional organization and seamless management of the event. This allowed for important exchanges of information and intra-state support of a wide range of initiatives. A copy of the conference programme is included in this edition.

New SA doctors' group

A new group, *South Australian Doctors Supporting choice for VE*, has been founded by Dr Julian Hafner (MD, MPhil, FRANZCP). This follows the already established national group *Doctors for AMA Neutrality on Voluntary Euthanasia*. The South Australian group will take a proactive stance in providing information to all SA MPs when new and important information becomes available within the medical domain. The group has a key role, given the ongoing legislative activity in South Australia.

Your Anticipatory Direction

If you have not already completed an Anticipatory Direction, also known as Advance Directive, please do so to ensure that your end of life wishes are respected.

You can choose from the:

(1) *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995*.

Forms are available for downloading from the Dept of Health website www.dh.sa.gov.au/consent or may be collected from Service SA, Government Information Centre 108 North Terrace Adelaide, or by ringing the Office of the Public Advocate.

(2) *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*.

There is a link to the Office of the Public Advocate from the above website for completing an Enduring Power of Guardianship under this act. Either Anticipatory Direction may be obtained by telephoning the Office of the Public Advocate (08) 8269 7575 or by country free call on 1800 066 969). An Enquiries Officer will answer any queries concerning Anticipatory Directions.

Members of the group are signatories to documents accompanying information provision to parliamentary members, especially at crucial times when a bill is under debate in parliament.

Medical practitioners, including those who are SAVES members, may become signatories to this group by emailing: fcoombe@adam.com.au. Members may wish to ask their own practitioners if they would like further information on both these groups.

President's report November 2009 meeting

SAVES president Frances Coombe welcomed patron and guest speaker Emeritus Professor John Willoughby, Ian and Nancy Wood representing *Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia*, and others to the November public meeting. She reported on the outcome of the Parnell Bill, including an important statement made by the President of the Legislative Council, Bob Sneath, who held a casting vote in the event of a tied vote. In commenting upon the debate and proceedings he made the point that those members opposing law reform, arguing that the Bill is not the 'right model', offered no suggestions or improvements.

This is because those with an ideological opposition to law reform will often couch it in terms of weaknesses in the model but will never support reform under any circumstances.

For instance, the *Family First* party has a policy position opposing choice for voluntary euthanasia, but at no time during debate was this openly stated.

Frances also spoke about the highly successful and very important National Conference of the states' executives. She gave special thanks to Arnold Gillespie and Debra Millikan who planned and executed a very full three day event. She also advised the audience of disturbing developments

reported on by the group *Compassion and Choices* (Nov 19 euthaNEWSia.ca) that a conference of Catholic Bishops has voted overwhelmingly for a directive that instructs Catholic health carers to force-feed unconscious patients, irrespective of patients' wishes. Readers are advised that this comes under a directive entitled 'Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERD) that governs 565 Catholic hospitals, 'Catholic HMOs and health care plans and millions of nurses, doctors and hospital workers:

The new rule incorporates a strong position maintaining that all patients in comatose or "vegetative" states receive food and water except those close to inevitable death from underlying conditions. The directives prohibit euthanasia and allow hospitals to follow Catholic pro-life teachings even if contrary to patient wishes" (1)

Barbara Coombs Lee, president of the group Compassion and Choices stated:

The impact is enormous, for Catholics and non-Catholics alike... The order runs counter to

Bequests to SAVES

A bequest to SAVES is one way to make a significant gift to further the aim of the society which is to achieve law reform to allow 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.

written instructions in hundreds of thousands of Advance Directives and the clear wishes of many individuals with no written document. The primary consideration in healthcare decisions should always be the individual's values, beliefs and desires, not fixed doctrine of any one religion. We respect the beliefs of all Catholics, but we do not respect an attempt by Catholic Bishops to override the health care decisions of a majority of Americans (2).

References:

- (1) (LifeNews.com summary USA: Catholic Bishops Vote to Reaffirm Food and Water for Coma, "Vegetative" Patients [LifeNews.com] <http://www.lifenews.com/bio3001.html>
- (2) <http://compassionandchoices.org/blog/?p=751>

'Dying with a clear mind'

Emeritus Professor John Willoughby, Neurologist and Neuroscientist Flinders University (retired), was guest speaker at the November 2009 SAVES general meeting, with a topic entitled *Dying with a Clear Mind*. Professor Willoughby provided comprehensive information on the wide range of brain disorders, with symptoms including sensory loss, pain, paralysis, chorea (involuntary movements), seizure and dementia that result in poor general health, anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation.

Professor Willoughby gave detailed information around prevalence rates for each disorder, and aspects of the associated suffering to highlight their devastating nature. He used comparative statistics on suicide rates associated with the different disorders as a rough index of their levels of distress. The general suicide rate in the western world is 110 per million, but is markedly increased in people affected by brain disorders, only some of which are terminal.

For instance, Parkinson's disease, with a prevalence rate of 700 per million, involves loss of

mobility with extreme fluctuations occurring even with medication, but sufferers may live for many decades. Of those who survive for 10 years 75% will eventually develop dementia. Suicide rates for Parkinson's disease are 5.3 times those of the general population. Motor Neurone disease is rare at 21 per million, but sufferers on average survive for between two and four years, with a suicide rate which is six-fold. Spinal cord injury which affects 680 people per million has a five fold suicide rate. Multiple sclerosis affects 300 people per million, and stroke 3000 per million; both with suicide rates double that of the general population. Huntington's chorea is distressing in prospect, and suicidal ideation is highest in the early or 'clear minded' stages.

Characteristics of disorders causing paralysis are that they are sometimes preventable (injury and stroke), often abrupt, often remaining stable, and nearly always in a person with a clear mind; arguably even more distressing. Professor Willoughby gave his personal views on the relationship between the different disorders and justifiable ethics supporting choice for voluntary euthanasia. SAVES thanks Professor Willoughby for his thoughtful and illuminating presentation.

Upcoming SAVES events – we need your help urgently!

SAVES Parliament House steps awareness days are a very effective means of achieving ongoing publicity for issues around voluntary euthanasia law reform. They are generally held once a month on a Friday from 11am – 2pm. Members are rostered for two 90 minute session times- 10.30-12 and 12-1.30pm. The next two events are on 19th March and 16th April. There is an information table, staffed by a committee member, placards are set up and pamphlets are given out to passers by who show interest. Petition signatures are also collected.

Members are also advised that the next Rundle Mall awareness day will be held on Friday 26th February from 9.00 am- 9pm. This is a major event in SAVES' calendar with committee and members staffing an information tent providing a wide range of material to the public. These events are held twice-yearly and attract a high level of interest and support from the public.

Members are always rostered with a committee member.

Please contact SAVES to offer your support.

Guest speaker: March AGM

SAVES is pleased to announce that the guest speaker at this year's AGM Sunday May 2nd will be Rev. Dr. Leslie Bruce Underwood, Dip Min, Dip Div, B.Th, grad Dip PHC (Palliative Care) M.A. (Chaplaincy), D.Min. The title for his presentation is '*A Personal Pastoral Perspective*'. Rev. Dr Underwood was born in Inverell in New South Wales and became a Salvation Army Officer in 1964 and a decade later joined the Central Methodist Mission Sydney as Director of Aged Care. He moved to Adelaide in 1976 and was ordained as a Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia December 1990. After three years in Parish ministry at Largs Bay he commenced Chaplaincy ministry with Helping Hand Centre North Adelaide.

He accepted a specialist ministry at Lottie Stewart Hospital, a sub-acute facility providing Palliative Care, Rehabilitation, and special units for Huntington's Disease, Spinal Injuries, Dementia in Sydney. He is a lecturer in Pastoral Care, Ethics and Aged Care, Wesley Institute, and since April 2007 Minister of UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide. He is also a Lecturer and Supervisor in Clinical Pastoral Education. His wife Dawn was an Aged Care Chaplain prior to her retirement. SAVES looks forward to hosting what will be a very interesting discussion.

'Ambassadors' for law reform

With over 80% of Australians supporting choice for voluntary euthanasia law reform, understandably there are many well known Australians that have 'put their hands up' to be ambassadors for the cause. These include people from politics, the law, academia, medicine, religion, journalism, the arts, business and sport. While from diverse backgrounds what these well-known identities have in common is their commitment to supporting this critical public issue. Now is the time to visit, or re-visit, SAVES website for a photographic display of these ambassadors for reform. You may also like to take time to peruse the wealth of information in the form of updates on legislative activity articles, fact sheets, archival material, past copies of The VE Bulletin, and ways in which you can be an advocate. SAVES' award winning site is a source of core material for educational bodies in Australia and overseas.

Check it out: <http://www.saves.asn.au>

Clarification

The November 2009 VE Bulletin informed readers about a forum '*Life's End: Rights and Responsibilities*' held at the University of Adelaide in August 2009. The Bulletin stated that SAVES President, Frances Coombe, was asked to address the forum. In fact Frances received a personal invitation to attend the forum but not to address it. I apologise for this mistake. **Julia Anaf**

Report: Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia

The exciting news for *Christians Supporting Choice for VE* is the expansion of our group into Western Australia. I expressed a desire to WAVES that we would like to support the Robin Chapple (Greens) VE Bill being introduced to WA

Parliament. As a result, WAVES agreed to pay for an advertisement for group members in the January *WA Senior*, and this has brought us over 50 new "signatories".

These will make quite an impression when added to our nearly 500 other members sending letters to the WA Members of Parliament as well as to our SA MPs. *Christians Supporting Choice for VE* is certainly making a difference to the way some MPs think on the issue of VE by strongly giving the alternative, caring and compassionate religious point of view.

Membership to our group is free, although some people have given donations when joining. Some of our expenses are quite high; for example just to send a letter out to all members will cost over \$200, as most do not have email. Each advertisement in the SA Senior to attract more members costs \$500, and one in the Advertiser would cost over \$3000 for a quarter page in colour. With this in mind, we would be delighted to receive offers of Sponsorship – Gold \$200, Silver \$100, and Bronze \$50, for one year.

Sponsors can elect to remain anonymous, or have their names published on our website and in our SAVES Bulletin report. Of course, donations of any size are always welcome. Cheques should be payable to *Christians Supporting Choice for VE*, and posted to 429 Anzac Road Port Pirie 5540.

Please contact me Phone (08) 8632 2272 or email Christiansforve@westnet.com.au for further information.

Ian Wood: Group Co-ordinator

The VE Bulletin is available by email. Please consider this option to help reduce postage costs.
Email: info@saves.asn.au to receive future editions by email.



Cut Out & Post

I WANT THE CHOICE OF A PEACEFUL DEATH!

I wish to assist **Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia** in their campaign with SAVES to have Voluntary Euthanasia legalised in South Australia and Australia, as an option for people suffering unbearably from a hopeless or terminal illness.

Enclosed is my donation towards Group advertising, printing and postage expenses, for 2010.

Gold Sponsor \$200 [] Silver Sponsor \$100 [] Bronze Sponsor \$50 [] Other Donation \$..... []

(Please make cheque or money order payable to Christians Supporting Choice for VE.)

Name..... Mr[] Mrs[] Ms[] or

Address.....

Email Phone

Signature.....

I wish to remain anonymous [] Please list my name on website and in SAVES Bulletin []

Please add my name as a “signatory” in Group letters to Members of Parliament []

Post to **Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia**,
429 Anzac Road, Port Pirie SA 5540

Ian Wood, Group Co-ordinator. Phone 8632 2272. Email Christiansforve@westnet.com.au



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 euthanasia.

Website: www.Christiansforve.org.au

Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Societies National Conference Rydges South Park Adelaide



Friday 23 October 2009

Registration
1230 – 1315

Secretariat desk

Opening
1330 – 1335
1335 – 1340

Welcome
Program Outline

Hon Frances Coombe
Hon Arnold Gillespie

Recent Voluntary Euthanasia Bills
1340 – 1500

Hon Mark Parnell
Hon Marshall Perron
Hon Sandra Kanck
Hon Bob Such
Hon Colleen Hartland
Hon Robin Chapple
Questions and discussion

Afternoon tea
1500 – 1530

The Barriers in my State or Territory

1530 – 1700

10 minute presentation by President of each State/Territory

ACT

New South Wales

Northern Territory

Queensland

South Australia

Tasmania

Victoria

Western Australia

Dinner

1900

Saturday 24 October 2009

The Laws, palliative care – here and there

0830 – 1000

Moderator: Ranjan Ray

0830 – 0845 Australia
0845 – 0900 Oregon
0900 – 0915 The Netherlands
0915 – 0930 Belgium
0930 – 0945 Switzerland
0945 – 1000 Discussion

Marshall Perron
Neil Francis
Frances Coombe
Linda Savage
John Todd

Morning coffee

1000 – 1030

Medicine and Euthanasia

1030 -1200

Moderator: Robert Marr

1030 – 1100 Prescribing restricted drugs
1100 – 1130 Neurology and euthanasia
1130 – 1230 Palliative Care

Chris Doecke
John Willoughby
Roger Hunt

Lunch

1230 - 1330

Religion and Euthanasia

1330 – 1430

Moderator: Frances Coombe

1330 – 1400 Christians Supporting Choice
for Voluntary Euthanasia
1400 – 1430 Suicide is not a sin

Ian Wood
John Todd

Funding Considerations

1430 – 1530

Moderator: Marshall Perron

Afternoon tea

1530 – 1600

Overcoming the Barriers

1600 -1730

Summarizing the barriers to VE legislation and discussion on their mitigation

Moderator: Rodney Syme

Dinner

1900

Sunday 25 October 2009

Motivating the Masses

0830 – 0930

Jane Intini
Presentation and discussion re motivating the 80% of the public who want legal euthanasia - advertisements, TV, radio, billboards

A United Front?

0930 – 1030

Moderator: Arnold Gillespie
Should Australian VE/PAD societies develop a common plan for a united front in the quest to get VE legalized?
Small group work

Morning coffee

1030 – 1100

Getting Bills into Parliament & advancing them

1100 – 1200

Moderator: Neil Francis

Discussion on planning the way ahead

Lunch

1230 - 1330

Observations and comments

1300 – 1330

David Muir

My takeaway message

1330 – 1500

Ten minute summary by each President of the salient points gleaned from the Conference

The World Federation of Right to Die Societies Conference

Melbourne 2010

1500 – 1530

Moderator: John Hont

Discussion re possible topics at the Conference

Au revoir and afternoon tea

1530

Frances Coombe

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Of the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES) at
The Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC), 195 Gilles St, Adelaide.

2.15 pm Sunday May 2nd 2010

Guest Speaker will be Rev Dr Leslie Bruce Underwood

Speaking on the topic 'A Personal Pastoral Perspective'

Business will include the president's and treasurer's reports and election of office bearers and other committee members for a period of one year. Written nominations for official positions, signed by nominating and nominated persons must be received by Friday 16th April 2010.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. Bring your friends. All welcome.

Other public meeting dates 2010 : 25th July and 21st November

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Annual Membership Fees: Single \$ 25.00 (concession \$ 10.00) Double \$ 30.00 (concession \$ 15.00)

Life Membership: Single \$ 200.00, Double \$ 300.00

Annual Fees fall due at the end of February. Payment for two years or more reduces handling and costs.

Office Use	
Database	Treasurer
Changes	Letter

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other Date.....

Address Postcode

.....
Email address if you want to be advised of SAVES activities

Your area of expertise that may be of help to SAVES

Date of birth (optional) **Membership fees for years \$.....**

Make cheque or money order payable to SAVES and send to:

SAVES Membership Officer, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071 **Donation \$.....**

Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (please quote name and type of payment) to: **TOTAL \$**

Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 129 account number 00901742

Please send this membership form to the above address or email to info@saves.asn.au when paying by electronic means, to ensure proper identification of your membership.

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

SAVES IS NOT ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES

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:

President

Vice Presidents

Frances Coombe

Julia Anaf

Mary Gallnor

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer

Administrative Officer

Minutes Secretary

Anne Hirsch

Hamish Claxton

Victoria Pollifrone

Dianne Lake

Patrons

Emeritus Professor J.A. Richardson

Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

Emeritus Professor John Willoughby

Telephone

8379 3421

(prefixes: interstate 08, international +61 8)

The VE Bulletin is published three times a year by the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES). Letters, articles and other material for possible publication are welcome and should be sent to The VE Bulletin Editor, SAVES, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071.

The statements and views expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent SAVES official policy. Material in this publication may be freely reproduced provided it is in context and given appropriate acknowledgement.

Editor: Julia Anaf