



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

## **Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates: 'SAVE-YA'**

*A national youth advocacy group initiated here in SA has been established to support law reform: based on societal need from a youth perspective. The group acknowledges that the right to choose voluntary euthanasia under prescribed circumstances is an issue for people of all ages. Convenor Amy Orange explains that the impetus for establishing this group was learning of the tragic situation that one young dying woman was forced to endure. Amy writes:*

Angelique Flowers lived a short life full of pain and suffering; diagnosed at 15 years of age with severe Crohn's disease and then later on with aggressive terminal colon cancer at age 30. Angelique wanted, and fought for the right to die a peaceful death on her own terms. In 2008 Angelique lost this fight, and her chance for a dignified death; passing away at 31 from a total bowel obstruction with her last hours spent vomiting up her own faeces. In an interview with The Age before she died, Angelique said, "The law wouldn't let a dog suffer the agony I'm going through before an inevitable death. It would be put down. Yet under the law, my life is worth less than a dog's." SAVE-YA supports and adopts the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society's (SAVES) working definition of voluntary euthanasia as:

*...a quick and peaceful death brought about under medical supervision at the request of and in the interests of a patient in which prescribed safeguards are followed.*

The definition applies to a person who is hopelessly ill with no other prospect of relief from suffering

which that person finds intolerable. SAVE-YA aims to raise awareness of voluntary euthanasia and mobilise public support. This is to bring about law reform in South Australia so that death will become a legal medical last resort for hopelessly ill people who freely express their informed wish to die a peaceful and dignified death. The reality shown by reputable surveys is that voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted dying already occur on a regular basis, but as they are currently illegal, there are no records or means of ensuring that the procedure is performed with due care. If these were to be legalised, the proper procedures would be in place to ensure that records are maintained and available to ensure accountability from all parties.

The moral principles SAVE-YA uphold when advocating for legalising voluntary euthanasia have also been adopted from SAVES:

1. Respect for personal autonomy, our right to make decisions that are primarily our own concern;
2. Compassion for those who are suffering with no prospect of relief;
3. Concern for the dignity of the person and his or her quality of life.
4. Equity under the law

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

While official members of this group must be between the ages of 18 and 35 years for active youth lobbying activities, SAVE-YA encourages people of all ages to join our Facebook group to help us with the goal of raising awareness and public support. If you wish to be an official member/public signatory of SAVE-YA please send a message via the Facebook group or email SAVEyouthadvocates@hotmail.com.

SAVE-YA aims to apply pressure on Members of Parliament to bring about law reform for voluntary euthanasia through the following methods:

- Writing letters to and meeting with Members of Parliament to provide them with evidence-based information and encourage their support for legalising voluntary euthanasia.
- Getting involved in talkback media
- Writing letters to newspapers
- Raising awareness of voluntary euthanasia via social media and provision of information to public through a variety of methods

SAVE-YA intends to develop some fresh creative new ideas for national campaigns utilising the wonderful new world of social media to attract attention and support to the cause, and hopefully increase awareness of the need for law reform.

Regular national polls show that legalising voluntary euthanasia has overwhelming public support, with approximately 85% of Australians believing that hopelessly ill people should have the right to seek and obtain medical assistance to end their life with dignity. This right is currently being denied in all Australian States and Territories.

There are Voluntary Euthanasia or Dying with Dignity Societies in all States and Territories; lobbying for law reform. Additionally, there are a number of other Australian groups lobbying for voluntary euthanasia to be legalised, including Doctors for Voluntary Euthanasia Choice, SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying, and Christians

Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia. However, *SAVE-YA is the first youth lobby group to advocate for voluntary euthanasia law reform in Australia, and possibly the world!*

Voluntary euthanasia is an issue which not only affects older people: younger people can be exposed to such circumstances personally, or through hopelessly ill family and friends. It is important therefore that young people tell their stories, are allowed to have their say, and that the Members of Parliament who can bring about such law reforms are made aware of youth opinion.

*For more information please contact Amy Orange, Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates (SAVE-YA)*

SAVEyouthadvocates@hotmail.com

## **Statement: EXIT International**

It has come to our attention that Dr Philip Nitschke has made an accusatory, unsubstantiated statement against SAVES in his latest e-Deliverance, June-July-August 2012 edition, namely:

*We do know however that other groups – take the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society as an example – have made it their business to suggest that Exit advocates the peaceful pill for depressed teens.*

The executive of SAVES denies this claim categorically. Communications to Dr Nitschke asking for an unreserved apology and retraction have not been answered.

SAVES' focus is exclusively on law reform, and is not affiliated with EXIT International / Dr Nitschke. However, we have always worked towards respectful relations. It is disappointing that this is not reciprocated.

**SAVES Executive**

## SA legislators back on task

Shortly after the July 2012 *VE Bulletin* was sent to members Dr Bob Such MP (Independent) advised that he would present his *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2012* in the House of Assembly. A conscience vote to allow the Bill to pass the second reading, where it could be debated clause by clause, was narrowly defeated (22-20) on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. This was despite support from the Premier, Jay Weatherill and other senior ministers, including Paul Caica and Pat Conlon. The Labor MPs voting against the Bill included Minister Tom Koutsantonis, Treasurer Jack Snelling and back-bencher Michael Atkinson. Liberal MPs supporting the Bill included frontbenchers Duncan McFetridge, John Gardner and Steven Marshall. Deputy Opposition Leader Mitch Williams voted against it.

*Adelaide Now* reported the narrow loss with the headline 'South Australian Parliament kills off euthanasia laws for the moment' (14<sup>th</sup> June). This acknowledges the general understanding that this is an issue that will not go away. Indeed, legislators are back on task, with Dr Such's Bill currently being redrafted, and Steph Key MP (Labor) indicating her intention to present another Voluntary Euthanasia Bill in the near future. *Adelaide Now* also reported that 'Community Christian groups launched a heavy lobbying campaign to galvanise MPs' opposition to change'. However, as Dr Such stated in response to the vote:

*Slavery wasn't abolished overnight and women didn't get the vote overnight. Big changes take time, but the Parliament will eventually catch up with the views of the broader community.*

## A different way of supporting VE Bills

*With further legislation planned in the shorter-term SAVES president Frances Coombe writes:*

"I ask that you once again communicate your support to your local Member of Parliament when a Bill is presented; your letter / email need only be

short, asking that your MP support the bill/s and a couple of reasons for you supporting law reform.

This time it would be especially valuable if you could get friends, family, neighbours, *only people who live in the same electorate as yourself*, to add their name and address to your letter/ email. Your letter would commence with "Dear ..... We the undersigned members of your electorate"

If you have mislaid the name of your MP please check with Frances on 0421 305 684. This is a most important way of maximising your support. As always my sincere thanks to you all"

## President's report

Frances Coombe welcomed many familiar faces, as well as newcomers to SAVES' July 2012 public meeting. Professor Rick Sarre, who teaches criminology and criminal law in the School of Law at the University of South Australia, was guest speaker. He gave his interesting personal insights on legalising voluntary euthanasia from both theological and legal perspectives. Susie Byrne, convenor of SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying, provided an update on this advocacy group, and Amy Orange, convenor of the youth advocacy group SAVE-YA, spoke about this new initiative which is discussed earlier in this bulletin.

**The VE Bulletin is available by email:**

**Please consider this option**

**to reduce postage costs.**

**Email: [info@saves.asn.au](mailto:info@saves.asn.au) to receive**

**future editions by email. Thank you.**

Frances spoke of the opportunity to attend a weekend *Get Up* workshop which provided helpful campaign strategies for optimising success in achieving organisational aims. She also noted that Neil Francis, CEO of YourLastRight.com, has been elected president of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

SAVES has been undertaking a review of the website and mobile display; together with the format of *The VE Bulletin*. The review allows for a timely update of information and a more contemporary 'face' for the society. The new display was part of the SAVES booth at the Disability and Ageing Expo held on 17<sup>th</sup> August. SAVES' presence attracted interest and support; with some people taking the time to write to their MPs on the spot.

Frances also provided a comprehensive round-up of national and international news and events.

### **Bequests to SAVES**

Making a bequest to SAVES is one way to make a significant gift towards furthering the aim of the society. This 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.

### **'Framing' religious objections**

Raymond Tallis, Emeritus Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester, and Chair of Healthcare Professionals for Assisted-

Dying argues that highly organised opposition by individuals and groups, largely with strong religious beliefs that forbid assistance to die, understand that 'religious absolutism cuts little ice in a predominantly secular society'. There is therefore the need for different strategies, such as those espoused by the 'Care Not Killing Alliance' established in 2005. As cited by Professor Tallis this group states:

*As Christian doctors we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide because we believe in the sanctity of human life made in the image of God ... But to win the debate on assisted dying we need to be using arguments that will make sense to those who do not share our Christian beliefs ... Christian doctors need to play a key role in this debate; and they will do so most effectively by learning to put what are essentially Christian arguments in secular language.*

Professor Tallis also points to parliamentary opponents whom he claims are 'even more effective in cloaking a principled objection in the clothes of pragmatic concern'. Citing Madeleine Teahan, now associate editor of *The Catholic Herald* and former researcher to Baroness Finlay, an opponent of assisted dying, another strategy is to separate the different pro-life campaigns. For instance:

*One key group would defend the rights of the unborn child and the other would focus on opposing the legalisation of assisted suicide and/or voluntary euthanasia. Both groups would take a strictly evidence-based approach to influencing and resisting future legislation. Religious sentiments or distracting arguments about sexuality would be kept out of the equation.*

Professor Tallis argues further that 'Most faith-based opponents of assisted dying, therefore, conceal their real reasons behind arguments intended to instil fear of the consequences of legalisation' by arguments that do not withstand evidence-based

scrutiny. These include the claim that palliative care together with spiritual and psychological support resolves the problems faced by dying patients. He therefore contends:

*A small but vocal group, prepared to bear other people's suffering heroically for the sake of God, must not be allowed to impose their views on the rest of the medical profession, and through them on society as a whole. Opponents of change make a lot of noise – it's time that the relatively silent majority made more.*

#### Reference:

Raymond Tallis, *The case for assisted dying* New humanist Sep/Oct 2012  
<http://newhumanist.org.uk/2848/the-case-for-assisted-dying>

## Advanced Care Directives

If you have not already completed an Advanced Care 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](http://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 Advance Care Directive 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.

## A SAVES patron speaks out

*SAVES patron Emeritus Professor John Willoughby expressed his views on the plight of one young man in a letter to The Advertiser on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. As widely reported, Mr Mark Leigep has been in a non-responsive state for several years following traumatic injury, and his family seek the right to allow him the peaceful death which is still denied under law. Professor Willoughby stated:*

“It is ironic that one of my earliest experience as a trainee doctor at the RAH in the mid-sixties was of a permanently paralysed person being tube-fed, against his wishes, until he died of pneumonia. Now 50 years later, a permanently unconscious person is to be starved to death.

It is appalling that, on some occasions, we manage death so poorly, a fact I attribute to parliamentarians being swayed by the ‘ne’er-die-wells’, the ultra-conservatives in our society, who prevent an intelligent approach to death.

These decades of much improved health and medical care will be looked back on as perversely barbarous in some instances”.

## National news

### Tasmania

*Crikey* magazine reported on the 28th August 2012 that Greens leader, Nick McKim, has stated his intention to introduce a private member’s bill, co-sponsored by Labor Premier Lara Giddings. Mr McKim explained:

*Rather than seeking a discussion on whether or not we should introduce voluntary euthanasia, it will be encouraging discussion around how it should be done ... We will then draft and table legislation that is appropriate for Tasmania, which gives it the best chance of passing the Parliament.*

Premier Giddings aims to get the legislation to Parliament by the end of the year. Mr McKim stated “It is possible to carefully and sensitively improve

end-of-life decision-making through a safe and regulated legal and medical framework”.

#### Reference:

Sarah Duggan ‘Who will first have the right to die? The fraught euthanasia landscape’ *Crikey*, <http://www.crikey.com.au/2012/08/28/who-will-first-have-the-right-to-die-the-fraught-euthanasia-landscape/#respond>

### New South Wales

*Online Opinion* reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> September that the Greens plan to introduce the *Rights of the Terminally Ill* Bill during the current term of the NSW State Government. This is to legalise assisted dying for ‘sound minded people with an intolerable terminal illness, who request to be allowed to die, rather than suffer indignity and pain before inevitable death’. This would be through a prescribed lethal sedative. The article noted that 87% of NSW citizens support the choice of assisted dying, 3% are undecided and 10% opposed. Former Federal Senator Peter Baume pointed out that any politician who condones this choice risks ostracising the 8% of society who are regular churchgoers and heed church policy; even though the majority of Christians support choice. He argues ‘No amount of science or suffering will change the Church’s faith-based viewpoint’.

However, the article noted that it is more difficult to understand the oppositional position of the Australian Medical Association (AMA):

*Current AMA policy has a blind spot for patients whom palliative care fails, offering them neither the choice to control their death nor effective management of their suffering. When medicine has nothing more to offer patients, the issue becomes more ethical than medical, and the AMA should not condemn patients’ choices.*

**Reference:** <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=14092>

## International news

### The Netherlands

A Netherlands study reported in *The Lancet* sought to identify whether legalising voluntary euthanasia had led to an increase in its frequency. The research found that rates of voluntary euthanasia in 2010 were comparable to when the law first sanctioned the right in 2002.

The study found that in 2010 2.8 per cent of deaths occurred as a result of voluntary euthanasia or assisted-dying, which was comparable to 2001 and 1995. Lead author Bregje Onwuteaka-Philipsen, a professor at the VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam stated:

*In the Netherlands the euthanasia law resulted in a relatively transparent practice. Although translating these results to other countries is not straightforward, they can inform the debate on legalisation of assisted dying in other countries.*

A summary of the research (reported on in [medicaldaily.com](http://medicaldaily.com)) noted that the investigators claim that “the frequency of physicians ending a patient’s life in the absence of an explicit request does not seem to be increased in countries where euthanasia is legalised. In the Netherlands it decreased significantly.”

#### References:

Onwuteaka-Philipsen, B; Brinkman-Stoppelenburg, A; Penning, C et al. “Trends in end-of-life practices before and after the enactment of the euthanasia law in the Netherlands from 1990 to 2010: a repeated cross-sectional survey” *The Lancet* (online 11 July 2012).

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/articles/10787/20120711/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-netherlands-legal.htm#qefh7vc2VM7EYWhB.99>

### A quote from SAVES website

‘The culture of silence spawned by the illicit nature of euthanasia results in a culture of trial and error, or backyard or “coat-hanger” euthanasia’ (p. 255 ‘Angels of Death: Exploring the Euthanasia Underground’ by Dr Roger Magnusson)

## The World Federation

Founded in 1980 the World Federation of Right to Die Societies comprises 46 organisations from 25 countries. The Federation provides an international link for organisations working to secure or protect the rights of individuals to self-determination at the end of their lives.

For comprehensive information see: <http://www.worldrtd.net/>

### Canada

In British Columbia in the case of *Carter v Canada (Attorney General)* 2012, the plaintiffs, a woman living with Lou Gehrig's disease, two people who assisted the woman to the Dignitas Clinic and others, challenged the *Criminal Code of Canada* that outlaws physician-assisted dying. The plaintiffs claimed that the existing situation deprives the right to life, liberty and security of the person in a manner that fails to accord with the principles of fundamental justice (contrary to s. 7 of the Charter). It was argued that a disproportionate impact is experienced by physically disabled persons, with the plaintiffs claiming infringement of s. 15 of the Charter. This is to the extent that this prohibits competent, physically disabled, grievously and irremediably ill adult individuals who voluntarily seek physician-assisted dying on an informed basis from receiving such assistance. The plaintiffs relied on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. (Australia has no Charter of Rights).

Under s. 52 of the *Constitution Act*, the provisions prohibiting physician-assisted dying have now been declared invalid, but the operation of that

declaration has been suspended for one year. The rationale for the judgement was that jurisdictions allowing physician-assisted dying have created safeguards to ensure that this right extends only to patients who meet defined circumstances, and that protocols, including second opinions and reporting requirements, are complied with. It was argued that risks may be largely avoided through carefully-designed, well-monitored safeguards.

### United Kingdom

Extensive international media coverage surrounded the tragic plight of Mr Tony Nicklinson (aged 58) who had acquired locked-in syndrome: unable to move his body below the neck following a massive stroke six years ago. Nicklinson mounted a legal challenge to gain immunity from prosecution for any professional who assisted him in his desire to end a life he found intolerable. However, the High Court ruled that Nicklinson, and another man with locked-in syndrome, could not be assisted to die under prevailing law. *The Independent* noted that there was no legal precedent and that such changes were the role of Parliament. The newspaper also reported that 'The decision was condemned by Mr Nicklinson and his family but welcomed by medical leaders and religious groups'. Subsequently it was reported that the devastated Nicklinson died six days later from natural causes.

Tony Nicklinson's plight inspired an article in *The Telegraph* by Peter Stanford, former editor of *The Catholic Herald*, who is a self-declared 'lifelong Catholic' and member of a Church that is 'unbending in insisting that God gives and takes away life'. In his article Stanford effectively distanced himself from the welcome response to the judgement by religious groups; claiming that a meeting he had with Tony and Jan Nicklinson changed his instinctive notion of what is right and wrong. Stanford stated:

... if I went into the Nicklinsons' specially adapted bungalow in the Wiltshire town of Melksham fundamentally opposed to any concessions on euthanasia, I emerged with my arguments

*demolished. And this by a man who had lost the power of speech... Tony's request was simple. He wanted the courts to allow a doctor to help him die. Earlier this month they refused. And so the 58-year-old had to do it alone, effectively starving himself to death from the moment he heard the judgment. It was precisely the end he hadn't wanted ... Hardly an advertisement for our values and humanity as a society, I now can't help thinking.*

Stanford conceded that while he was a churchgoer and defended the sanctity of life argument:

*He [Tony] was an atheist. His family were atheists. He did not believe that God gave life and took it away... Why should he therefore be bound by laws based on those beliefs? I didn't have an answer then. Or now, when I have had plenty of time to assemble one... [It] was undeniably his choice and his alone.*

New research has been published showing massive public support for the change in the law Tony Nicklinson was seeking. Research conducted by YouGov reveals that 81% of UK adults support the right of mentally competent individuals with terminal or incurable diseases having the right to medical assistance to assist them end their lives without fear of prosecution. The support included 66% of Roman Catholics and 82% of Anglicans.

#### References:

Locked-in syndrome sufferers lose legal challenge over assisted dying, The Independent 17-8-12

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/locked-in-syndrome-sufferers-lose-legal-challenge-over-assisted-dying-8053451>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9494934/How-an-extraordinary-day-spent-with-Tony-Nicklinson-changed-my-views-on-right-to-die.html>

'New poll shows strong public support for assisted dying'

British Humanist Association 7-9-12

<http://www.humanism.org.uk/news/view/1108>

## SAVES' new committee members

SAVES is pleased to announce two new committee members. With the retirement of long standing honorary secretary Anne Hirsch, Frances Greenwood has offered to take on the role for a trial period of one year. Anne is remaining as a committee member. Membership officer Gerry Versteeg is relinquishing the role after many years, but is still assisting the society by dispatching *The VE Bulletin*. Elice Herraman has kindly offered to fill the important role of membership officer. SAVES is very appreciative of Anne's and Gerry's hard work in these positions over many years, and both welcomes and thanks Frances and Elice for 'stepping up'.

### Just a reminder...

**SAVES public meetings are held three times a year at 2.15 pm on Sunday afternoons. The final meeting for the year is on the 4th November. It is the last meeting to be held at the Disability Information and Resource Centre at 195 Gilles St Adelaide as the venue is changing to the Box Factory at 59 Regent St South in the city from 2013.**

**This is an important forum for updating members on SAVES' activities, legislative issues and relevant local, national and international events and initiatives. Guest speakers provide a further informative dimension to these meetings which conclude with informal discussion over tea and coffee.**

**Make a diary note now!**



## Updates from Support Groups

### Doctors for Voluntary Euthanasia Choice

Doctors for Voluntary Euthanasia Choice is a national organisation of medical practitioners motivated to legalise voluntary euthanasia. It provides an internet site ([Drs4VEChoice.org](http://Drs4VEChoice.org)) where support for VE reform can be openly expressed by publicly listed doctors or privately expressed via a confidential register. This site firmly establishes that many doctors do want to change the current 'one size fits all' approach to end-of-life care. The website has also enabled families of people who need palliative care to obtain information about the care delivered by various institutions in their communities. On the local scene, South Australian members of Doctors for Voluntary Euthanasia Choice are to have a letter published in the South Australian AMA newsletter 'medicSA'. This letter will draw to the attention of SA AMA members that some of their medical colleagues do see a need for people to have more options available to them in the distressing extremes of their lives.

### SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

*Susie Byrne, convenor SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying states:*

Our newly designed brochures have now been printed. These have been distributed via SAVES in the Mall, with a hundred or so also made available at the recent Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation development day in August. Over 500 of the nursing workforce here in SA attended that day. Our aims enjoy widespread support: based on discussion in tea rooms, at the bedside and across all the nursing disciplines here in SA. I would encourage SAVES members to continue to spread the word and encourage any nurses you know to think about joining. There are no membership fees and no meetings to attend. Our members communicate by email or phone.

Please log on to our facebook page SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying and show your support by "liking" our page.

### Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia

An advertisement in the NSW *Senior* newspaper was very successful, and we have had nearly 150 responses from people wishing to join our group, bringing our signatory membership to over 1000. A similar advertisement is now in the Tasmanian *Senior*, where we are looking for support for the Giddings/McKim assisted-dying bill, which we hope will be debated in Parliament later this year.

Together with Dr David Leaf from DWDnsw, who gave his views on assisted dying from a medical aspect, I gave our PowerPoint presentation to nearly 100 people from the University of the Third Age (U3A) Southern Highlands. As a result, I was asked to give my talk to the local chapter of Exit International, and again this seemed well received. Surprise continues to be expressed that a majority of Christians are supportive of medically assisted dying in appropriate circumstances!

Our new promotional leaflet has resulted in a further increase in members. Copies of this are available free, through SAVES or on request directly to me. Please consider giving a leaflet to any person you feel may be interested.

I have recently read *Death With Dignity* by Robert Orfali, *Is There a Christian Case for Assisted Dying?* (YES!!) by Paul Badham, and *In Search of Gentle Death* by Richard Cote. All are very informative and recommended reading.

*Ian Wood*

National Coordinator Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia Villa 1, Hampton Mews, 4 Wills Place, Mittagong NSW 2575

Email: [Christiansforve@westnet.com.au](mailto:Christiansforve@westnet.com.au)

Phone: 02 4872 1448

## **Voluntary Euthanasia Support Groups**

Several advocacy groups share the aim of law reform to allow choice for voluntary euthanasia under prescribed circumstances. These are listed below with contact details for members and other interested parties who may seek to join or make enquiries.

### **Doctors for VE Choice:**

Website: [drs4vechoice.org](http://drs4vechoice.org)

#### **Dr. Rosemary A. Jones**

North Adelaide Medical Centre, Suite 22, 183 Tynte St North Adelaide, SA 5006.

Tel: (W) (61) (8) 8239 1988 Fax: (W) (61) (8) 8239 1085 Mobile: 0407 729 407

Email: [rosiej@internode.on.net](mailto:rosiej@internode.on.net)

#### **Professor John Willoughby**

Mobile 0499 078938

[John.Willoughby@flinders.edu.au](mailto:John.Willoughby@flinders.edu.au)

### **SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying**

Convenor: **Ms Susie Byrne** email: [sanursessupportingchoicesindying@hotmail.com](mailto:sanursessupportingchoicesindying@hotmail.com)

Facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying.

### **Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia**

Website: [www.christiansforve.org.au](http://www.christiansforve.org.au)

National Co-ordinator:

#### **Ian Wood**

Villa 1, Hampton Mews, 4 Wills Place, Mittagong NSW 2575

Email: [Christiansforve@westnet.com.au](mailto:Christiansforve@westnet.com.au)

Patron and Member of the Executive:

**Rev Dr Craig de Vos**, Minister North Adelaide Baptist Church, 154 Tynte Street,

North Adelaide SA 5006

Ph: (W) 08 8267-4971 (M) 0402305029

Email: [minister@nabc.org.au](mailto:minister@nabc.org.au), Website: [www.nabc.org.au](http://www.nabc.org.au)

### **Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates- 'SAVE-YA'**

Convenor: Ms Amy Orange: [SAVEyouthadvocates@hotmail.com](mailto:SAVEyouthadvocates@hotmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: EACH SUPPORT GROUP IS STAFFED BY VOLUNTEERS AND WOULD WELCOME ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS OPERATING COSTS.**

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING 2012

The SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES) will hold a public meeting at The Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC), 195 Gilles St, Adelaide on

**Sunday 4th November at 2.15 pm:**

Guest speaker will be **Anne Bunning** speaking on the topic:

***'Voluntary euthanasia legislation – a work in progress'***

Anne Bunning is a strategic thinker and planner with extensive experience in policy development and advocacy, and is a skilled researcher, writer and communicator with broad cross cultural experience.

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

**All welcome!**

**Public meeting dates for 2013 are Sundays:**

**April 14th, July 28th, November 10th at: the Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide.**

## 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.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/other ..... Date.....

Address .....

..... Postcode ..... Telephone .....

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

Date of birth (optional) .....

Your expertise which may be of help to SAVES.....

Membership fee(s) for..... year(s) \$ .....

Donation \$ .....

Total \$ .....

Office Use

Database Treasurer

Changes Letter

Please indicate method of payment  
and send completed form to:

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

**Enclosed cheque or money order**

*Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer quoting name and type of payment to:*

**Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 129 account number 00901742**

**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 judgement and conscience of the doctor.**

**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.



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### **Telephone**

Frances Coome **0421 305 684**

### **Internet**

**[www.saves.asn.au](http://www.saves.asn.au)**

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**Editor: Julia Anaf**