

*‘The right to die is as inviolable as the right to life’.* Sir Mark Oliphant

## It’s time to say YES to voluntary euthanasia

Following the release of the 2012 Newspoll, again confirming an increase in support for voluntary euthanasia in Australia – it’s now at 82% - SAVES reviewed the focus for our advocacy programme.

It is clear that it is Members of Parliament who are the most worried about voluntary euthanasia, not the general population. It is also clear that many MPs are worried about voluntary euthanasia not because they oppose voluntary euthanasia, but because they fear a backlash from those opposed to voluntary euthanasia who threaten to campaign strongly against them at the next election if they vote for it. There are a number of MPs who oppose voluntary euthanasia for religious or personal reasons and will never change their vote, regardless of what their constituents say. SAVES acknowledges their right to their personal view and that they have a right to vote as they wish when voluntary euthanasia is a conscience vote, not a party vote.

SAVES takes the view that it is time for supporters of voluntary euthanasia to announce their support, to explain to their local state MP that they support voluntary euthanasia, and for their MP to understand that this is a matter on which they may change their vote at the next election. Overwhelmingly the evidence supports the safety and security of the protocols around implementation of voluntary euthanasia (or similar) legislation around the world; there is no slippery slope, grandmothers are not being killed

by unscrupulous relatives for their inheritance, disabled people are not being euthanased against their will. It is time for this misinformation promoted by those opposed to voluntary euthanasia to be outed for what it is. It is time for the silent majority who support voluntary euthanasia to say so, for MPs to realise that supporters of voluntary euthanasia can also be vocal and organised at the next election, and that there are more supporters of voluntary euthanasia than opponents in their electorate.

SAVES takes the view that it is also time for MPs to SAY YES to voluntary euthanasia.

## Ending life with Dignity Bill 2013

SAVES is now entering its’ 30th year of advocacy for law reform, with the first meeting of the society held on 25th November 1983. The latest of the many Bills brought before the state parliament is the *Ending Life with Dignity Bill 2013* presented to the Lower House on the 7th February by the Hon Dr Bob Such (Ind).

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Summary points of the Bill are:

- The person must have attained the age of 18 years.
- The person must be of sound mind and suffering unbearably from a terminal illness.
- Before making a voluntary euthanasia request two medical practitioners (one a treating practitioner) and each acting independently, must personally examine and fully inform the person of the diagnosis and the prognosis of the illness; the forms of treatment available and respective side effects and likely outcomes of treatment; the extent to which these may be mitigated by appropriate palliative care; and the proposed voluntary euthanasia procedure, risks and feasible alternatives.
- If the medical practitioner suspects that the person is not of sound mind, has impaired decision-making capacity, or is under any form of duress, inducement or undue influence, then before the request the person must obtain a certificate from a psychiatrist certifying that, in the psychiatrist's opinion the person is of sound mind and that the person's state of mind is unlikely to adversely affect the person's ability to request voluntary euthanasia.
- The request must be made in the presence of two medical practitioners and two other adult witnesses, the latter not being relatives or beneficiaries of the requesting person.
- If the patient is unable to write a request, a form must be signed by either or both adult witnesses in accordance with the patient's expressed oral wish and a videotape recorded.
- All witnesses must certify that the person appeared to be of sound mind, fully understood the request and was not acting under duress.
- The request must be registered in a Register of VE requests.
- An interpreter must be available if required.
- A request can be revoked at any time.
- At least one of the medical practitioners must confirm that there is no revocation of the request and no expressed desire to postpone it.
- At least 48 hours must elapse from completion of a certificate of confirmation by another medical practitioner who is not involved in day to day treatment and care of the person and has personally examined the person.
- A medical practitioner administering voluntary euthanasia must make a report to the State Coroner within 48 hours.
- A Voluntary Euthanasia Board is to be established, composed of two medical practitioners, two legal practitioners, one person nominated by each of the Palliative Care Council of SA Inc, the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc, the SA Council of Churches Inc, and Disability Services SA.
- A medical practitioner, person assisting, or the administering authority of a hospital, hospice, nursing home or other institution may decline to be involved in the administration of VE.
- An insurer is not entitled to refuse to make payment on the ground that the death occurred from the administration of VE.
- The Social Development Committee must review the operation of this Act as soon as practicable after the expiry of two years from commencement.

SAVES urges members and supporters to contact their state MP to say they support the Bill - that it is time to say YES to voluntary euthanasia.

#### ***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***

## Polls reinforce overwhelming support for law reform

The *Ending Life with Dignity* Bill 2013, profiled above, was introduced within the context of ongoing findings from scientific polls that show overwhelming support for law reform.

A national public opinion poll on assisted dying law reform conducted by **Newspoll** on behalf of *YourLastRight.com*, included residents of all states in the sample of 2,521 respondents. Interviews were conducted by telephone late October through mid-November 2012. Findings were that Australians who support assisted dying law reform (82.5%) outnumber opponents (12.7%) six to one. The legalisation of voluntary euthanasia was also identified as a more significant social issue (80%) than abortion (78%), capital punishment (71%), a national high speed broadband network (64%), a carbon tax or emissions trading scheme (60%) and same-sex marriage (58%). Only two issues: the National Disability Insurance Scheme and dealing with asylum seeker boat arrivals were seen as more important issues than whether or not voluntary euthanasia is legalised.

Other poll results were that 29% of voters would change their vote if their likely political candidate or party stance is opposed to their own. Significantly, politicians opposed to law reform would lose more votes (23%) than those who support it (6%) across all major parties. This finding demolishes the widely accepted political myth that support for law reform is a political threat.

The poll also revealed that nearly nine out of ten Australian Anglicans, more than three out of four Catholics, and nearly all Australian atheists support law reform on assisted dying, showing that the organised opposition by religious hierarchies does not represent the views of the majority of the laity. Even though opposition is highest among

smaller Christian groups, this is still a small minority overall. Those opposed to reform were approximately seven times more likely to have a religion than not. Limited sample sizes precluded an analysis of non-Christian religious views.

Overall, poll results are consistent with other research conducted both in Australia and overseas.

For further information see <http://www.yourlastright.com/>

The **Australia Institute** poll released on 19th November 2012 found that in a nationally representative survey of 1422 people 71% supported the right to voluntary euthanasia for people ‘experiencing unrelievable and incurable physical and/or mental suffering’. Seventeen per cent were ‘not sure’ and 12% were opposed. Of particular note was that 85% of those supporting legalisation also maintained that terminally ill patients should be allowed to choose when they die, and 77% believed that people with severe dementia who had signed an Advance Care Directive stating their wish to end their life should have their wishes respected.

In an interview (ABC Radio National ‘The World Today’ 16 Nov 2012) Dr Richard Dennis from the Australia Institute stated:

*Well, I think our politicians are afraid to address it [voluntary euthanasia]. I think it's a case that the politicians know that if they take this on they are going to have a big fight with a small group and you know, perhaps it is good politics to avoid those fights but I don't think it is good policy... What I find really interesting is that particularly conservative politicians who are more likely to oppose euthanasia are often the same people that are telling us that individual choice and responsibility should be the sort of the defining feature of our democracy... I find it irreconcilable that those conservative politicians are often the same ones saying, well, I insist that you're not free*

to choose the time and the manner in which you die. So they don't want governments to run our lives but they are very happy for governments to control our deaths.

For further information contact The Australia Institute [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au)

### Bequests to SAVES

**Making a bequest to SAVES is one way to make a significant gift furthering the aim of the society. This is to achieve law reform to allow choice for voluntary euthanasia under prescribed circumstances.**

**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.**

## Personalising the polls

While polls reflect the overall view of respondents the poll 'drivers' reflect the myriad individual life histories that shape these views. Polls embody both hypothetical or 'in principle' stances and the passionately held views of people whose lives have been irrevocably changed by their experiences. The tragic situation faced by the late Mark Leigep and his family, reported on in the last edition of this bulletin, is one such compelling story. Mr Leigep who had been in a non-responsive state for over six years following traumatic injury had his life support switched off at the request of his mother, Joanne Dunn.

The Hon Stephanie (Steph) Key MP (Labor), member for Ashford, was moved to table the following Grievance Debate in state parliament on October 16th 2012:

*The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (15:30): Many times in this house I have discussed issues associated with voluntary euthanasia and I have also discussed what I consider is the tragic death of Mark Leigep. As a result of that, I wrote to his mother, Joanne Dunn, of Venus Bay. I would like to thank the member for Flinders' office for assisting us in doing that. Yesterday, I received a letter from Ms Joanne Dunn and I would like to read it to the house. Joanne is very happy for me to do this, I might add. It says:*

"Dear Stephanie,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me, it was much appreciated.

On the 3rd of September I moved into Mark's room at Highgate Park where at 10am that morning his feeding and hydration tube were removed. I never left his side in 26 days and he passed away in my arms on the 28th Sept. It was the worst experience of my life to say the least and I'm still having nightmares from this. He was in the end euthanized in the most terrible way. In the 26 days, he fitted regularly and ended drowning in his own blood. I kept a daily diary of the harrowing time the nurses, staff and myself had to endure. In this time not only was my son's dignity taken from him but mine as well. He deteriorated that quickly that even his family had to be kept away as it was that shocking so I was left alone with my son to cope with his loss on my own.

The nurses and staff were the only ones that kept me together and many a time in that 26 days did we all break down together but still I would do it all again tomorrow to save Mark from enduring another 10 years or more in a body with no life. No-one should have to go through what I did in the last 6½ yrs. I feel the government owes me, for what they put me through. No medical staff should have to watch a patient die the way Mark did after caring for him that long. They loved him too. I met other families who want their children to die also,



but are too scared to take the measures I did.

Mark is free now. He died 6½ years ago but it has taken that long to bury him. My ordeal will live on. I will keep up my fight for euthanasia as I don't want anyone to go through what I did. It's not for everyone, but we should have that choice.

Thanking you again for your time, and if there is anything I can do to help in this fight I will break doors to be a part of it.

Yours sincerely, Joanne C. Dunn".

*As you can imagine, that is a very difficult letter to receive. I had the opportunity to speak to Joanne yesterday and she talked to me about the ordeal that she and her family went through.*

I see South Australia as a civilised place. There are lots of discussions that we have in here, and outside, about ethics, and we talk about values, but I would say this: in 2012, we have a young man who has been unresponsive to any stimulation for 6½ years and with no prospect of a change in his circumstance, and either he must remain in this condition forever or starve to death in a medical situation. To me, that seems like a ridiculous way of dealing with a very difficult situation.

### **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/>**

## **How should Australia regulate voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide?**

This is the title of a Background Paper released in November by Australia 21 described as 'an independent non-profit body that was established in 2001 to develop new frameworks of understanding for complex multidisciplinary problems that are important to Australia's future'. The paper was developed by Professors Ben White and Lindy Willmott from the Health Law Research Centre, Faculty of Law, QUT the Queensland University of Technology.

It was prepared as input to a high-level roundtable discussion that was held under the collaborative sponsorship of Australia 21 and the Queensland University of Technology in January 2013. The findings from the roundtable will be released in the near future and reported on in the next edition of The VE Bulletin.

The document may be downloaded from [www.australia21.org.au](http://www.australia21.org.au).

## **Tasmanian Discussion Paper released**

Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings and Greens MP Nick McKim have just released a Discussion Paper entitled *Voluntary Assisted Dying: A Proposal for Tasmania*. This is based on, but not confined to, the following provisions:

- voluntariness
- informed decision
- terminally ill with no reasonable alternative to relieve suffering
- cannot be based solely on age or disability
- doctor or personal administration
- over 18 years of age
- written request
- Tasmanian residency requirement
- independent oversight mechanism, and review of the Act after 5 years

On the 4th February 2013 *The Advocate* reported that while the Victorian – Tasmanian Uniting Church does not have a position on assisted dying it was a party welcoming the release of the paper; encouraging Tasmanians to contribute where possible.

**Reference:**

[http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/185578/Voluntary\\_Assisted\\_Dying\\_-\\_A\\_Proposal\\_for\\_Tasmania.pdf](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/185578/Voluntary_Assisted_Dying_-_A_Proposal_for_Tasmania.pdf)

**News from WA and NSW**

Independent Western Australian MP Adele Carles has promised to introduce voluntary euthanasia legislation if she is re-elected in the March 9th state election. Ms Carles was moved by the plight of 64 year old Barbara Harrison who was bed-ridden with multiple sclerosis and elected to end her life. In a poignant interview four days prior to her death Ms Harrison explained that she could not wait any longer to ingest the imported Nembutal medication as she could lose the physical capacity to open the bottle and swallow the contents. She explained:

“My son is just finishing his Masters and he’ll be graduating in July. If euthanasia was legal, I could be around for that graduation and now I can’t. I’ve been a solo mum for 18 years and I can’t see that... It’s the minority religious groups that are standing in the way (of legalising euthanasia) and it shouldn’t have anything to do with religion... I believe in God but I know God wouldn’t want me to suffer like this. God knows me. God knows how I’ve been and how hard this is... I’m not leaving it any longer.”

Labor opposition leader Mark McGowan stated that he would introduce legislation if Labor wins the state election.

In NSW Greens MP Kate Faehrmann has welcomed the release of the Australia 21 Report

discussed above, and will be speaking on her Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill when touring the state. A variety of guest speakers will also address audiences at events in Wollongong, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour and Ballina, with more planned for later in the year.

**References:**

Kate Emery ‘Sufferer’s sad goodbye’ *The West Australian*, 5th February 2013

Kate Emery ‘McGowan moves on euthanasia’ *The West Australian*, 6th February 2013

**Your Advance Care Directive**

***If you have not already completed an 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](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 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.***

**Advance Care Directive review**

An Advance Care Directive is a formal way of giving instructions for your future health care. While some people will die a sudden death, others will die as a result of a terminal or chronic illness. An Advance Health Care Directive allows you

to record your wishes for future treatment in the event of losing decision-making capacity. It only comes into effect if and when you are unable to make your own decisions.

In SA these are currently under the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995* (Consent Act) and the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* (Guardianship Act). These have different legal requirements, involve completing multiple forms, and have different decision-making standards, witnessing provisions and dispute or appeal mechanisms.

The *Advance Care Directives Bill 2012* will result in a single Advance Care Directive covering health, residential, accommodation and personal matters. A competent adult can state his or her values, wishes, instructions and directions and also appoint one or more substitute decision-makers should he or she experience impaired decision-making capacity in the future. This allows for clarity and supports a person-centred model of decision-making and a rights-based approach to substitute decision-making. The Bill was introduced into SA Parliament on 17th October 2012 by Hon. John Hill the then Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts.

The drivers for reform are these many different forms and provisions which make the existing situation complex and confusing, resulting in limited uptake of an important instrument. In April 2007 the Minister for Health, the then Attorney General, and the then Minister for Families and Communities jointly launched the Advance Directives Review with the release of an Issues Paper titled *Planning ahead: Your health, your money, your life* for public comment.

An independent Advance Directives Review Committee was established with former Health Minister, the Hon Martyn Evans, as Chair. The 11

member Review Committee was supported by a panel of experts across a broad range of areas.

Over 120 submissions were received on the Issues Paper from health, aged care and community care professionals, lawyers, community organisations, consumers, Aboriginal communities, government agencies and financial institutions.

After 18 months of deliberations the Advance Directives Review Committee reported to the Attorney General in two stages. Stage 1 Report made 36 recommendations for changes to law and policy and Stage 2 Report made 31 recommendations for implementation and communication strategies.

The objects and principles of the Bill place the person completing the Advance Care Directive at the centre while including protections for Substitute Decision-Makers, health practitioners and others who may have to comply with a person's Advance Care Directive. The Bill makes amendments to the current Acts and consolidates provisions with the one Act. This allows for families and/or those closest to the person to make health care decisions should decision-making capacity be lost.

An Advance Care Directive does not permit anything that is unlawful, including voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying. It does not allow for a health professional to breach any professional Code or Standard, or allow for refusal of mandatory medical treatment such as a community treatment order, or inpatient treatment order under the *Mental Health Act 2009*. It also does not allow for any directions in respect of financial or legal affairs.

Although an Advance Care Directive may not provide the level of reassurance that comes from a right to voluntary euthanasia, it allows a high level of autonomy in decision making. SAVES has always promoted completion of ACDs and the VE Bulletin will report on the passage of the Bill.

## Why do we want the right to die?

This is the title of an article which reviewed extensive international evidence of people's attitudes and views towards assisted dying, including from sixteen qualitative studies and 94 surveys. The authors state that the results showed that 'people valued autonomy in death as much as in life'. They found that attitudes were diverse, complex and related to definitions of 'unbearable suffering' including physical, psycho-social and existential factors consistent across social, economic, legal and health-care contexts. The authors' conclusions were that 'unbearable suffering' is a key construct, and attitudes were consistent across groups regardless of illness or disability. There were no apparent differences between countries, or whether or not assisted dying was permitted by law. The views were so consistent that the researchers argue that these indicate 'a mandate for legislative and medical systems worldwide to listen and understand this'.

The term 'unbearable suffering' was seen as an appropriate criterion for the *Ending Life with Dignity Bill* 2013.

### Reference:

Maggie Hendry, Diana Pasterfield, Ruth Lewis, Ben Carter, Daniel Hodgson and Clare Wilkinson 'Why do we want the right to die?' *Palliative Medicine* published online 5 November 2012

## International news Massachusetts

The Republican newspaper (30 Nov 2012) reported that Catholic organisations and pro-life advocates spent over \$5 million to defeat a ballot question held on 6th November seeking to allow terminally ill people to access a prescription to end their own lives. The very narrow defeat 51% to 49 % reflected the fact that well financed opponents outspent supporters 5-1.

[http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/11/big\\_donations\\_helped\\_defeat\\_do.html](http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/11/big_donations_helped_defeat_do.html)

### Regular donations to SAVES

**SAVES receives no established funding and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Ongoing campaigns are costly and dependent on donations. Have you considered giving special regular /monthly donations? All donations, regular or occasional are greatly appreciated. See page 11 for payment options.**

### Just a reminder....

**SAVES public meetings are held three times a year at 2.15 pm on Sunday afternoons in Adelaide at the Box Factory 59 Regent St South.**

**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.**

**The 2013 Annual General Meeting is on April 14th.**

**Make a diary note now!**

## SAVES Constitution

Certain changes to and clarification of wording of sections 8 (e) and 9 (d) of the SAVES Constitution will be raised at the Annual General Meeting on 14th April 2013, with points italicised:

8 (e) 'The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members or relations of members of the Society provided that nothing



herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or servant of the Society or to any member of the Society for any service actually rendered to the Society or reasonable and proper rental for premises leased *to it* by any member of the Society’.

9 (d) Other General Meetings of members may be held as determined by the Committee provided that there are *at least* two such meetings apart from the Annual General Meeting each year.

### **Update on VE support groups**

SAVES has received updates from two voluntary euthanasia support groups:

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

*National coordinator Ian Wood:*

We have continued to welcome new members from throughout Australia, particularly from Tasmania.

I was pleased to meet with Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann to talk about her forthcoming VE Bill. I had no response from two requests to meet with the NSW Shooters Party MPs, or from Rev Fred Nile. The NSW Nationals MLC Niall Blair said he might decide to meet me!

The recent tragic suicide of Herbert Erickson while awaiting sentence for the ‘mercy killing’ of his partner prompted much media attention in WA, and the Leader of the WA Opposition has now come out in support of assisted dying legislation. At my suggestion a number of our WA members wrote to key WA MPs.

I have just read the book *Death by Choice versus Religious Dogma*, by avowed NSW atheist, Hani Montan. This is well worth checking out and readily available on the internet. I found myself agreeing with many of the points Hani makes!

These include:

- Everyone is entitled to die in the way that fits his or her beliefs
- Religious-right groups achieve their objectives by pushing politicians to act as surrogates for the implementation of their social and political agendas. They want ‘power and control’.
- The ‘religious industry’ seeks to deny not only secular Australians their right to choose an assisted death, but also the 70% of believers.
- The ‘religious industry’ emotively uses the term ‘killing’ and they include in their campaign ‘false statistics, omissions, fear mongering and lies’.
- Ultraconservative theologians lack compassion for those in desperate circumstances.

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

The group Doctors for VE Choice reports that it has succeeded in having a piece accepted for publication in the *Medical Journal of Australia*. This is an important development and an overview will be provided in this bulletin following the publication.

#### **See SAVES’**

***new ‘user friendly’ website hosting an extensive range of information including dozens of fact sheets and articles, information about attempts to change South Australia’s law, and advance directives.***

#### **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.***

## 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: [sanursesupportingchoicesindying@hotmail.com](mailto:sanursesupportingchoicesindying@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 Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates- 'SAVE-YA'*

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

### *South Coast Support Group*

Convenors: Denis and Pat Haynes [den1929@bigpond.com](mailto:den1929@bigpond.com)

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

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES) will hold its AGM at

The Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide on

**Sunday 14th April at 2.15 pm:**

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 nominated and nominating persons must be received by Friday 22nd March 2013.

Members and visitors will be updated on legislation recently introduced into SA Parliament

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

All welcome!

**Other public meeting dates for 2013 are Sundays: July 28th and 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 .....

Office Use	
Database	Treasurer
Changes	Letter

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

Donation \$ .....

Total \$ .....

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 is not associated with Dr Philip Nitschke

## 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

Frances Coombe

Vice Presidents

Mary Gallnor

Julia Anaf

Hon. Secretary

Frances Greenwood

Hon. Treasurer

Hamish Claxton

Minutes Secretary

Libby Drake

Membership Officer

Elice Herraman

General Member

Anne Hirsch

Patrons

Emeritus Professor J.A. Richardson

Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

Emeritus Professor John Willoughby

### Telephone

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**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.*

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