

SAVES BULLETIN

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

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

Update on SAVES' campaign: 'It's time to say YES to voluntary euthanasia'

The July *VE Bulletin* discussed SAVES' "It's time to say YES to voluntary euthanasia" campaign in targeted urban and regional centres. The campaign has continued over the last three months with a range of strategies. One was a rally on the steps of Parliament House on September 11th in support of the *Ending Life with Dignity* Bill with placards (below) sending a simple and direct message:

It's time for compassion ...

say **YES** to

Voluntary Euthanasia

Tell your State Member of Parliament

Vote **YES** to

Ending Life with Dignity Bill 2013

Speakers who advocated for law reform and for the current Bill at the rally included:

- Hon Dr Bob Such (Ind)
- Hon Steph Key (ALP)
- Hon Mark Parnell (Greens)
- Emeritus Prof John Willoughby, SAVES' patron and convenor of *drs4vechoice.org*
- Phillip Beddall disability advocate
- Rev Dr Craig de Vos, spokesperson for *Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia*

- Stephen Kenny, spokesperson for *Lawyers for Dying with Dignity*
- Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Dabars, CEO/Secretary *Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation SA*

When addressing the crowd Frances Coombe reiterated one of the most common responses from members of the public:

"It is a shameful fact that if we treated our pets in the same way we treat suffering people we could be prosecuted for cruelty."

Space does not permit an overview of all the speakers' 'take home' messages, but it was interesting to hear Rev Dr Craig de Vos and disability advocate Philip Beddall speaking from supportive religious and disability perspectives respectively. While the view is often espoused that people from religious and disability groups are most likely to adopt an opposing stance on the right to choose, Craig and Philip explained that this is clearly not the case.

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As Philip reminded the audience, people living with disabilities seek the same rights as everyone else to manage their lives, and their deaths, if faced with terminal or incurable illness. Craig spoke in terms of a God of love and compassion. This is reflected in the dominant position of the Christian laity identified through scientific polling which shows strong support for voluntary euthanasia law reform. It is very important, therefore, to make it known at every opportunity that people living with disabilities wish to speak for themselves, and the majority of members of religious congregations are clearly not being represented by church leaders on this issue. Denis Haynes, convenor of the South Coast Support group for SAVES, spoke ‘off the cuff’ about the anger felt by constituents when Members of Parliament do not represent their electorate.

During the rally many members of the public stopped and asked how they could support the cause and took a wide range of information. Frances Coombe and Philip Beddall were interviewed on ‘The Wire’, a Community Radio current affairs program, with an audio link available at: <http://www.thewire.org.au/storyDetail.aspx?ID=10806>. As September 11th was a parliamentary sitting day, other MPs who support law reform took the time to join the rally in solidarity.

This rally was one of several strategies SAVES has employed to ensure that MPs are provided with a range of resources to help them deliberate on the Ending Life with Dignity Bill. As it is costly to engage in campaigning SAVES is calling for donations dedicated towards campaign activities.

The VE Bulletin is available by email

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

Thank you

Call for Campaign donations

Campaigning in support of law reform is costly. SAVES committee is staffed exclusively by volunteers, and membership fees are kept as low as possible to allow SAVES to be an inclusive society.

Please give your support to SAVES campaign on the Dignity in Dying Bill.

Even a small donation will make a difference to achieving success.

‘Myth-busting’ videos available on YouTube

Neil Francis, former CEO of *Your Last Right* has compiled two excellent five minute ‘myth-busting’ videos that are now available on Youtube. The first, entitled ‘*The best palliative care cannot always help*’, debunks the myth that the availability of palliative care negates the need for voluntary euthanasia.

The second entitled ‘*The fiction of so-called assisted dying slippery slopes*’ counters the myth that legalising voluntary euthanasia would lead to others becoming ‘vulnerable’. The videos include interviews with Australian and international figures and give examples of misinformation perpetrated by opponents of voluntary euthanasia law reform.

The best palliative care cannot always help is available at: <http://youtu.be/rC7N7OkAZTU>,

The fiction of so-called assisted dying slippery slopes is available at <http://youtu.be/NdLxvRgh668>.

We are very fortunate in having Neil Francis on board. Last year the SAVES committee awarded Neil honorary life membership in appreciation and recognition of his outstanding contribution to the VE movement as past CEO of the national alliance, YourLastRight.com, and Past President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

Please share the above video sites among friends and circulate as widely as possible.

Farewell Mary

Many members will have known Mary Gallnor who was a founding member of SAVES and passionate advocate. Mary died on 19th July with a memorial service honouring her life held at the Burnside Community Centre on the 4th August. Anne Hirsch and Frances Coombe who both knew Mary for almost three decades reflect on their long-term relationships with her. For Frances:

‘Mary was, open and generous, a loyal friend and invaluable mentor. I valued the visits to her home where she always had my required straight back chair ready next to hers and we sat talking of all sorts of matters, looking out of her front window at a tree in her front garden, lovely in all seasons. I even emulated her ‘dress’ style until descending for a while into a hippy phase!

Mary’s faith in me to carry on from her achievements was just wonderful. Her dedicated work over 30 years towards legalising VE will continue to be inspiring.

Mary was widely admired and respected for her tenacious advocacy across a broad range of social justice and feminist issues, but she always said “we can’t leave the men behind”, and also worked on a men’s support group committee. She was a member of the UN Status of Women committee and a delegate to the Liberal Party policy committee amongst others.

Mary was also a ‘people’s person’ and networking was one of her great strengths. She continually engaged people across many spheres. Mary considered those working with her in the SAVES committee and Task Force to be part of her VE ‘family’ – referring with admiration and pleasure to ‘our’ Anne, our Julia and so

forth. Her knowledge of and involvement in the parliamentary process was another highly significant strength to the VE movement here in SA, nationally and internationally. Mary’s engagement in politics crossed party lines, also to great advantage. She was a ‘goer’ and a ‘stayer’.

However, her long period of ill health which she attributed to her name “Mary quite contrary”, prevented her from participating in her beloved SAVES activities and from seeing our ultimate aim realized.

Vale Mary – your work will not be in vain’.

Long term honorary secretary and committee and task force member, Anne Hirsch said:

‘Mary joined the SAVES Committee in 1989 after having been a founding member in 1983. She quickly assessed this to be a hard-working, rather academic and male- dominated body. It regarded spreading of information concerning voluntary euthanasia amongst the general public as its main function in bringing about legalisation. With her usual incisiveness, Mary voiced her opinion that this part of our work had already been achieved and that our main target now needed to be the people who made the laws, namely our politicians.

*This resulted in a lively meeting with clashing views, with me firmly on the opposing side. Typically, it did not take long before Mary’s view prevailed and she began the long task of establishing contact with members of the South Australian Parliament. Her political connections in this area were invaluable. She coined the phrase “what we need is a vote of 51% [of parliamentarians] in favour”, which still resounds today. Mary immersed herself in the field of voluntary euthanasia, becoming an expert in the world-wide movement. In 1992 she took over SAVES presidency from Eric Gargett – a large pair of shoes to fill - and in 1998 was elected *President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.**

There was just one thing that mattered more to her than this work, namely her close-knit family which always had priority. Her joy at the arrival of her beloved grand-daughter was one of the highlights in her life. We also owe our capable present-day President, Frances Coombe, to Mary's ability to recognise and further the potential she recognised in people. She encouraged Frances to gain the self-confidence needed to take over the office when Mary felt that her illness had reached a stage where she could no longer cope with the demands of the presidency. She remained a source of encouragement and information in the early days of Frances' Presidency.

On a personal level, Mary and I soon became not only allies, but firm friends. Mary has left a large gap, not only in the furtherance of the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia, but also in my life. Mary will be remembered as the special person that she was, and she will be missed greatly by all who knew her'.

*In recognising Mary's contribution it is timely to reflect on the following letter she sent in a personal capacity to all state and federal parliamentarians, over a decade ago. Entitled '**Church and State: the place of religion in the parliament of a multicultural, secular democracy**' it is particularly relevant to the issue of voluntary euthanasia, as politicians will be given a "conscience" vote on the Ending Life with Dignity Bill:*

"I am not a Christian, but having been brought up in strict Irish Catholicism in Protestant England, I do acknowledge that some people get comfort from a belief in a supernatural being. That is incomprehensible to me but, as a humanist and a liberal, I respect the rights of everyone to follow a chosen path.

However, when they impinge on the rights of others then I believe I have the right to speak out. I refer to an edict from the Pope sent to members of parliament by Archbishop Wilson in January. In this document all Catholics, worldwide, are instructed to follow Catholic

teaching and I agree they are free to obey the Pope in their personal lives. What I take objection to is that there is a special message to all Catholic politicians instructing them to take the Catholic dogma on to the floor of parliament; in other words into our lives. In effect the Vatican has laid down its own legislative agenda to be followed by the whole world and I find this frightening, dangerous and very offensive.

We live in a multicultural secular country which is not Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu or Catholic. Surely we expect anyone who chooses to enter parliament to leave religious dogma at the door and instead to apply critical, rational thinking to their chosen work as lawmakers. Bertrand Russell wrote "what we need is not the will to believe but the will to find out". Well the way to find out is to research both sides of the argument using clearly verifiable evidence and then to balance the harm and the good to society of passing any bill, irrespective of personal preference.

Let us be clear, religious dogma cannot be proved and if a belief in the dogma of their church forbids it then they should abstain from voting on that particular bill.

During her excellent contribution to the embryo stem cell research, Senator Amanda Vanstone gave her opinion on the place of religion in a secular democracy when she stated:

Your religion is your business and no one else's. It follows that I attach very little importance or interest in arguments over religious dogma. My personal view is that when you make your religion an issue, you drag it into the political domain and you tarnish it.

Further she maintained:

You are entitled to follow your religious beliefs but you are not entitled to demand by legislation that everybody else does the same.

Amanda also quoted Clarence Darrow in the infamous Scopes "Monkey Trial" who argued that:

The realm of religion is where knowledge leaves off, and where faith begins, and it has never needed the arm of the state for support, and wherever it has received it, it has harmed both the public and the religion it would pretend to serve.

Our Founding Fathers were obviously concerned about this as is shown by article 116 of The Constitution, but up to now members of parliament have been getting away with doing it with impunity. Some even cite their religious dogma as reason for opposing social justice issues.

I suggest that it is high time that we stopped referring to a “conscience vote” which is a euphemism for “cop out” and call it instead a non-aligned vote or, as in the UK, a free vote. I put it to you that it is also time for us to restate vigorously and often, that there is no place for religious dogma in the parliament of a secular, democratic country.”

SAVES is delighted that Associate Professor Arnold Gillespie has agreed to take on the role of vice president which was previously held by Mary Gallnor. Thank you Arnold.

ABC Vote Compass registers overwhelming support for VE

Vote Compass is an educational tool developed by a non-profit group of political scientists and hosted by the ABC. It is designed to help people identify how closely their views fit within the political landscape by completing an on-line survey. Relevant issues for inclusion were based on an analysis of the public discourse, the policy platforms of the major political parties, and a crowdsourcing campaign launched by the ABC earlier this year. There were over 1.2 million responses during the federal election, giving unprecedented insight into the views of Australians. It is important to note that the issue of voluntary euthanasia was prominent enough to feature in the survey.

ABC News online on the 6th September revealed ‘21 things about Australians’ that stood out in the survey; one of which was the overwhelming level of support for the right to voluntary euthanasia (75%). This result highlights that social issues are not always ‘crowded out’ by a focus on the economy, and this is a reminder to politicians that voluntary euthanasia law reform will remain on the political agenda until properly dealt with.

Even though law reform is a state issue, (and SAVES’ limited time and resources are necessarily directed towards achieving legislative success in the South Australian parliament), the Voluntary Euthanasia Party (VEP) ran candidates in the federal election. The stated aim of the VEP is to ‘ensure dignity in the final years of life, by raising the profile of this issue in order to engender the necessary political will for change’ (see <http://vep.org.au/>). This party gained 0.22% of the vote, the same as the Australian Sports Party which secured a Senate seat as a result of preference deals.

Other minor parties contesting the election stated that they supported the right to choose voluntary euthanasia including the Liberal Democrats and the Sex Party. This level of interest in the issue at federal level is indicative of a growing mood for change nationally.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-06/21-things-vote-compass-revealed-federal-election/4939224>

“My own choice”: ABC Four Corners

The story of Jay Franklin, a 36 year old man struggling with an incurable congenital bowel disease which leaves him in constant and debilitating pain, and who is seeking assistance to die, was the subject of ABC Four Corners on September 16th. As assisted dying and voluntary euthanasia are still outlawed in Australia Mr Franklin must travel to Switzerland if he decides to carry out his wish, after having now met eligibility requirements. He argued:

"I don't want to do something irrational. You know, I don't want to hang myself. I don't want to shoot myself..."

Speaking of the political leaders who refuse to deal with the situation Jay stated:

"They haven't had to walk in my shoes for these past 36 years and they're not going through what I go through every day, you know, and it's not about them anyway at the end of the day. It's about me and me being able to make my own, my own choice."

Jay's story is an indictment of a society which so far has refused to introduce a legal framework that meets the needs of people in such desperate situations.

The program may be viewed at: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2013/09/16/3847237.htm>

Bequest 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.

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.

Scientist Stephen Hawking supports the right to assisted-dying

Respected scientist Professor Stephen Hawking has spoken out in support for assisted dying for people with terminal diseases. Prof Hawking, who has been living with motor neurone disease for 50 years had not always held this view, based on the belief that 'where there is life there is always hope'.

However, in a recent interview with the BBC the 71 year old cosmologist argued:

"We don't let animals suffer, so why humans? I think those who have a terminal illness and are in great pain should have the right to choose to end their lives and those who help them should be free from prosecution."

He stated the importance of informed consent and stringent safeguards.

Reference: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/stephen-hawking-speaks-out-in-favour-of-assisted-suicide-8822490.html>

Constraints on implementing Washington's DWD Act

The *Seattle Times* recently published an article entitled 'Defending death with dignity in Catholic hospital mergers' to highlight constraints on implementing the Washington *Death with Dignity Act*. This Act was passed in 2008 by an overwhelming majority. Guest columnist Tom Preston, the retired physician who chaired the coalition of groups that launched Initiative 1000, the *Death with Dignity Act*, explains that doctors are being forced to adhere to religious rules that prevent any participation in implementing the Act, and that they are being silenced.

In one county a dying patient who was unable to access the Act during the final stages of a 'terrible illness' could not get the help he needed and took his own life by a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Dr Preston has been advised that that the rules of Peace Health, a health-care system conforming to conservative Catholic rules, is able to restrict patients' rights and circumvent the intent of the Act.

Further, voters on San Juan Island who approved the *Death with Dignity Act* by a 75-25% margin are serviced by a new property tax-supported hospital that is subject to Catholic directives. Almost half of Washington's hospitals, hospice facilities and major

medical systems, will be subject to restrictions imposed by Catholic bishops by the end of this year. Dr Preston stated that although some brave doctors are speaking out many fear possible reprisals and are fearful of losing jobs in Catholic hospitals.

Reference: Seattle Times 1-9-13

http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2021724109_tomprestonopeddeathwithdignity02.xml.html?syndication=rss

Impassioned plea for assisted dying from Canadian medical specialist

Infectious diseases specialist Dr Donald Low who managed the SARS crisis in Canada in 2003 videotaped an appeal for the right to assisted dying just eight days before his death from a brain tumour at age 68. He stated he was envious of people living in those jurisdictions where assisted dying is legal. In his video he addressed those who oppose assisted dying, asking them to rethink their position:

I wish they could live in my body for 24 hours and I think they would change that opinion... I'm just frustrated not to be able to have control of my own life. Not being able to have the decision for myself when enough is enough.

The British Columbia Supreme Court made a ruling in 2012 that the law banning doctor assisted dying is unconstitutional, but this ruling is under appeal by the federal government. Wanda Morris, executive director of *Dying with Dignity Canada*, claimed that she felt society was 'on the cusp of change' stating that Dr Low's posthumous video was "very poignant."

Reference: Ubelacker S, 'SARS doctor Donald Low pleads for legalized assisted suicide in posthumous video', *The Canadian Press*, 24/9/2013 <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/+Donald+pleads+legalized+assisted+suicide+posthumous/8952795/story.htm>

Another set-back in UK right-to-die case

Previous editions of *The VE Bulletin* have covered the case brought by the late Tony Nicklinson who was living with 'locked-in' syndrome but denied the right to an assisted death. This case was subsequently taken on by Paul Lamb from Leeds who is paralysed and seeking help to die. The court of appeal rejected his request.

However, another appeal by a man known only as Martin, who is also suffering from 'locked-in syndrome', was upheld by a two to one majority. The appellant is seeking greater legal clarity concerning any potential prosecution that may face an accompanying doctor or nurse to Dignitas in Switzerland. Earlier in the year Paul Lamb gave an interview to *The Guardian* in which he stated:

When the end comes, I want it to be in here, in that bed... I want to end my life in a peaceful, dignified way.

The lawyers for Paul Lamb and the late Tony Nicklinson said that they would appeal to the Supreme Court. The British Humanist Association (BHA) chief executive, Andrew Copson, who intervened in the case, said:

Brave individual after brave individual has brought legal case after legal case in the face of their own incredible suffering to try to secure the right to die with dignity... This is the most important bioethical issue of our time and the lack of legal or political progress in the face of massive public demand and a knock-down moral argument in favour of change is a standing rebuke to our view of ourselves as a civilised and humane society.

This article attracted over 300 'blogs' or comments published online. One person had this to say:

The official justification is that the state must protect people from themselves, though I'm far

more concerned about being protected from the people that want to protect me from myself.

Reference: ‘Right-to-die battle: court of appeal rejects paralysed man’s case’ Owen, Bowcott, theguardian.com, Wednesday 31 July 2013

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 <http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Public+Content/SA+Health+Internet/Health+topics/Legal+matters/ower+of+Attorney+and+Anticipatory+Direction>

Forms may also be collected from Service SA, Government Information Centre 108 North Terrace Adelaide, or by ringing the Office of the Public Advocate (number below).

(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) 8342 8200 or by country free call on 1800 066 969).

Book Review

MORTALITY by Christopher Hitchens

Dr Rosemary Jones, co-convenor of Doctors for VE Choice (drs4vechoice.org) sent this review of the late Christopher Hitchens’ final book.

Christopher Hitchens wrote this book, in the main, during the time of his final year of life and at the end of the book are some scattered fragments of thoughts and jottings that he had made days

before his final demise. It is a well-written book, as one would expect from Christopher, and, if anything, in language plainer than usual with fewer linguistic gymnastics. This is a book written straight from the heart by a man who was, by his own admission, a pragmatic man, and it tells of the reality of dying.

The book contests the theme of “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”. In particular, I would like to quote him on page 67, when he writes about the final days of Professor Sidney Hook, who was a much published pragmatist. The famous professor was being put through the wringer with his serious illness (unspecified) and eventually found himself in conflict with his eminent physician, who denied him voluntary euthanasia. The reason for the professor seeking voluntary euthanasia was three-fold, being, firstly, that “an agonising stroke could hit him once more forcing him to suffer it all again, secondly, his family was being put through a hellish experience and thirdly but by no means least, medical resources were being pointlessly expended”. He graphically describes the suffering as lying on a “mattress grave”.

Christopher goes on to comment that “after all, if it were otherwise, then each attack, each stroke, each vile hiccup, each ‘slime assault’, should collectively build one up and strengthen resistance”. And, he comments, “This is plainly absurd”. So we are left with something quite unusual in the annals of unsentimental approaches to extinction: “not the wish to die with dignity but the desire to have died”. You can understand, dear reader, how the phrase “die with dignity” caught my attention. I think Christopher was making the point that dying is never dignified and sometimes to have “died before” may not be such a bad thing.

Of those considering themselves as candidates for death (and that includes all of us) I can recommend this book.

Mortality by Christopher Hitchens, Allen & Unwin
2012

Just a reminder

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

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 next public meeting is on the 10th November at 2.15pm

Voluntary euthanasia support group updates

The following updates have been received from convenors of voluntary euthanasia support groups:

Drs for VE Choice

Dr Arnold Gillespie sent the following information on behalf of the group:

Drs4vechoice is a national organisation of Australian medical practitioners, both current and retired, who believe that patients who have no realistic chance of cure of illness or relief from intolerable symptoms, should, if that is their carefully considered wish, have the right to end their lives legally in a peaceful way at a time of their choosing.

We aim to provide evidence that the practice of VE can be ethical, that it is actively sought for by patients in Australia and that it is acceptable to Australians. To do this and to support the *Ending Life with Dignity Bill 2013*, currently before the SA Parliament, we are sending to SA Parliamentarians, every week, a quote from a refereed and respected medical journal. The detailed reference is also included so that the article from which the quote originated may be accessed.

Christians Supporting Choice for VE

Ian Wood reports that in recent months, possibly encouraged by the raised profile of VE during the federal election, that his group has been delighted to welcome new members from all states including South Australia. Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia believes that "Love and compassion dictate that the legal option of an assisted death should be a right for all Australians with a hopeless or terminal illness" and the group's primary aim is communicate this message to all Australian MPs. Membership is free.

If readers would like to join, please email iagree@christiansforve.org.au with your name and address, write to Ian Wood at the address below, or phone 02 4872 1448. Considerable support has been expressed by non-Christians and ex-Christians for our campaign and Ian is very happy to welcome them as supporters of the group. (See page 10 for further contact details)

South Coast Support Group

Convenor Denis Haynes advises that the group is active and five members travelled to Adelaide to attend the rally on Parliament House steps on September 11th. Former Democrats MLC Sandra Kanck is an invited speaker in November and the group will advertise this via a local market stall.

SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

Susie Byrne, convenor of the group advised that she has been sharing information with the group and has written to parliamentarians asking for their support of the *Ending Life with Dignity* Bill.

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

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

Professor John Willoughby

Mobile 0499 078 938

John.Willoughby@flinders.edu.au

SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

Convenor: **Ms Susie Byrne** email: sanursesupportingchoicesindying@hotmail.com

Facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying.

Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia

Website: www.christiansforve.org.au

National Co-ordinator:

Ian Wood

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

Email: 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, Website: www.nabc.org.au

Syndicated Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates- 'SAVE-YA'

Convenor: Ms Amy Orange: SAVEyouthadvocates@hotmail.com

South Coast Support Group

Convenors: Denis and Pat Haynes den1929@bigpond.com

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

NOTICE OF SAVES PUBLIC MEETING

The SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES) will hold a public meeting at
The Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide on Sunday 10th November 2013

Guest speaker will be Kathy Williams, Senior Policy Officer, SA Health:

“Advance Care Directives – helping to ensure your wishes are known and respected”

Kathy will speak about the new Advance Care Directives Act; and plans for its implementation. This will be the chance to discuss the legal obligation of ambulance officers when called in an emergency situation.

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

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Annual Membership fees: Single \$25.00 (Concession \$10.00), Couple \$30.00 (Concession \$15.00)

Life membership: Single \$200.00, Couple \$300.00

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM – or you can join online at <http://www.saves.asn.au/samem.php>

Date _____ Renewal () New Member ()

Surname(s) including Mr/Mrs/Ms etc. _____

Given name(s) or Initial(s) _____

Address _____

Suburb/Town _____ Post Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____ (is also used to provide additional information)

Year(s) of Birth (optional) _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to SAVES and send with this form to:

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

Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer:

Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 129 Account Number 00901742 - And please return completed form to the above postal address to ensure proper identification of your payment.

Do you wish to receive the Bulletin (newsletter) as attachment in PDF format? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Your area of expertise that could be of help to SAVES _____

Membership fees for _____ years \$ _____

Plus donation to support the work of SAVES \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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Changes	Letter

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 or EXIT International

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

Julia Anaf

Arnold Gillespie

Hon. Secretary

Frances Greenwood

Hon. Treasurer

Sandra Bradley

Minutes Secretary

Libby Drake

Membership Officer

Elice Herraman

General Member

Anne Hirsch

Patrons

Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

Emeritus Professor John Willoughby

Telephone

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