



Important Notice about the future of VEP(NSW)

Dear Member,

Enclosed is the Notice of Meeting for the Annual General Meeting of the *Voluntary Euthanasia Party (NSW)* to be held at 1.30pm on Saturday 9th November 2019 at the North Sydney Community Centre.

The AGM will consider a special resolution for the Party to merge with *Reason Australia*. This is something which the Executive of the Party have considered carefully and we believe it will give the Party an opportunity to develop the Party into a more powerful and effective political force.

The Party was established in 2013 to use the political process to further the campaign for voluntary assisted dying laws in NSW. The Party has run upper house candidates at the 2015 and 2019 state elections and I have been proud to be the lead candidate for the Party at both elections. Although we have not been successful in winning a seat in NSW Parliament, we have kept the issue of voluntary assisted dying laws on the political and public agenda and our campaigns have achieved great publicity for the cause.

We could not have done this without the wonderful support of our members. You have contributed in so many ways, manning polling booths, letterboxing our flyers and very generous financial donations and by voting for us on election day. We can't tell you how much we have appreciated your support.

With the next election not until March 2023, we have considered the best way forward for the Party and believe that merging with *Reason Australia* is the right thing to do. With the limited resources available to the Party and the lack of formal campaigning and political experience of its executive and members, it is not realistic to expect better results from a campaign at the next state election.

The enclosed Notice of Meeting includes information about *Reason Australia* and details of how the merger would work. We encourage you to read it carefully.

Reason Australia has an established presence in Victoria and its founder Fiona Patten holds a seat in their Upper House. Fiona played an integral role in the passage of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Law in 2017. *Reason Australia* is looking to expand its presence across Australia and merging with *VEP NSW* would provide it with a ready-made political party in NSW.

Reason Australia has an experienced team and access to key personnel with strategic, media and campaigning skills. *Reason Australia* and Fiona Patten have an established political presence and media profile. A merger with *Reason Australia* will bring greater skills and resources to enable our Party to pursue its goals more effectively and professionally, to help achieve greater success at the next election. It will also provide access to people who worked successfully on the passage of the Victorian voluntary assisted dying laws.

Along with the Executive of the Party, I believe this is the right decision for *VEP(NSW)* and we recommend that you vote in favour of the Special Resolution at the AGM.

Yours sincerely

Shayne Higson
Convenor, VEP(NSW)

