

Identical Voluntary Euthanasia Bills

A Joint Bill has been introduced in the Lower House of Parliament (House of Assembly)

by

the Hon Steph Key

and the Upper House (Legislative Council)

by

the Hon Mark Parnell.

The aim of the Bill is to allow a competent adult to receive medical help for a peaceful death under carefully controlled circumstances.

About the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES).

The aim of SAVES is to achieve a change in legislation to permit a choice for voluntary euthanasia, in well defined situations.

SAVES represents the views of its members to parliamentarians, the media and interested bodies. It provides information on voluntary euthanasia by regular meetings and on its website. It does not assist in the provision of voluntary euthanasia.

SAVES

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Joint Voluntary Euthanasia Bill in the Upper and Lower Houses South Australian Parliament

*Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care
(End of Life Arrangements)
Amendment Bill 2010*

the
"Key / Parnell Bill"



South Australian
Voluntary Euthanasia Society
(SAVES)

What is in the Key / Parnell Bill?

- a request for euthanasia can come only voluntarily from an adult person of sound mind
- the person may be in the terminal phase of a terminal illness *or*
- have an illness, injury or other medical condition (other than a mental illness) that irreversibly impairs the person's quality of life so that life has become intolerable to that person
- a request may be made before the illness occurs
- the person must be examined by two doctors, at least one of whom must be a specialist in the relevant area of medicine from which the person is suffering and both doctors must agree that the request is justified by the medical evidence
- the sufferer must be fully informed about his/her illness, including palliative care, all possible treatments and their likely outcomes
- if there is any indication that the person is not of sound mind or is acting under the influence of another person, a psychiatrist must be consulted
- the request may be withdrawn at any time
- all prescribed documentation must be completed and forwarded to the Voluntary Euthanasia Board of South Australia which must deliver annual reports to the Minister
- there is right of appeal to the Supreme Court against a declaration or order by the Board
- any person may refuse to be involved in the process
- interpreters must be available for any person whose first language is not English
- euthanasia occurs by medication prescribed by the doctor for self administered or by administration by the doctor *or*
- by withholding or withdrawing medical treatment in circumstances likely to result in an end to life
- a person who makes a false or misleading statement can be imprisoned for 10 or 20 years
- a person with an interest in the applicant's estate, an owner, operator, employee, or agent of a nursing home or similar institution where the person is resident, may not be a witness to an application
- only reasonable costs may be charged for administering or assisting in the administering of VE – no for profit VE facilities may be established
- Insurance companies are prohibited from offering to fund VE, unless first asked by the insured person
- A 12 month residency requirement ensures that only SA residents are able to apply for VE
- a doctor, pharmacist or health care provider who provides assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Bill will not be the subject of civil or criminal action

What can you do to support the Bills?

The function of your Member of Parliament is to represent the views of his/her constituents.

To get the Bills through Parliament your Member needs to know of your support.

Write, email, phone your Member or, better still, go to see him/her.

Please don't leave it to someone else - it may not happen if you do.

If your Member does not know your views they cannot be acted upon.

Write to Mark Parnell in the Upper House and to your local Lower House Member.

To find the name of your local Member, contact the SA Electoral Commission.

<http://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au>

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