

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc.



MEDIA RELEASE

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The film **"The Sea Inside"** commences at cinemas on April 21st.

This highly acclaimed film tells the true story of Ramon Sampedro who became a tetraplegic after a diving accident at age 30.

Ramon was a popular man with humour and strength, well loved and supported by devoted family and friends.

Despite this he found his suffering was unbearable. He described himself as "a head on a pillow".

Ramon joined the Spanish right to die society and he appeared on radio and television, arguing for his right to die with dignity.

He learnt to write with his mouth and wrote a book - "Letters from Hell".

Ramon died by assisted suicide in 1998 at age 56, after 6 years of unsuccessful struggle through the Spanish Constitutional Court and the Strasbourg Court to get legal aid to die. He was finally aided to die by unknown friends.

Ramon's tragedy of suffering and the deep commitment of his brave friends who helped him to die can be likened to that of Queensland's Nancy Crick.

As long as our law forces people to suffer, by denying them choice for voluntary euthanasia, such tragedies will continue.

Brave family members and friends will risk their lives and liberty by helping their suffering loved ones to die.

The Dignity in Dying Bill, the fourth voluntary euthanasia bill in our SA parliament since 1995, is currently before the Lower House. If enacted it would give people like Ramon Sampedro and Nancy Crick the choice of a quick and peaceful death.

It is shameful and cruel that a majority of our lawmakers steadfastly deny the rational and compassionate argument for law reform.

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