

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Patron:

Emeritus Professor JA Richardson
Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

Internet: <http://www.saves.asn.au>



MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 21ST – 27TH MAY

National Palliative Care Week, with this year's theme as "Partners in Care", is a time to recognize the high quality palliative care services that are of great benefit to many dying patients around Australia. Without the expertise and dedication of those working in palliative care there would be many more people dying in horrifying circumstances.

SAVES affirms and actively supports the availability of palliative care for all. Voluntary euthanasia and palliative care have a common interest in a good death, compassion for suffering and concern for quality of life. The 2 approaches are complementary – both are medical procedures and both are concepts of care.

However, it is widely acknowledged that there is a minority – between 5-10% of people, who continue to suffer despite the best of palliative care. Under the current prohibitive law, there is no answer for this minority.

It is then, when palliative care cannot, or can no longer meet the patient's need, that voluntary euthanasia should be an option of last resort for the patient.

SAVES is committed to securing law reform that enables choice for voluntary euthanasia within a range of options. It looks forward to the day when palliative care and voluntary euthanasia are in effect partners in care, for the benefit of all suffering people.

Imagine yourself or your loved ones as one of that 5-10%. How would you feel?

Contact

SAVES President Frances Coombe
0421 305 684 / 8336 8994

Vice President Mary Gallnor
8264 3548