



MEDIA RELEASE

THIS DAY, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, OUR RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED, OUR LAW IS EFFECTIVELY FORCING PEOPLE TO ENDURE HORRIFIC, INTRACTABLE SUFFERING.

“It is widely acknowledged that not all pain and symptoms from hopeless and terminal illness can be alleviated, even with the best medical care” said Frances Coombe, President of the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES).

“It is everyone’s right to choose an assisted death in the face of serious, irreversible illness or injury” said Ms Coombe. “Why should we suffer until the bitter end, over months or even years?”

The Dignity in Dying Bill, at present before both Houses of Parliament, is the 5th such Bill since 1995. Such legislation has 79% support, according to a Morgan Poll conducted here last year.

“Medically assisted dying is available under strict guidelines and safeguards in the Netherlands, Belgium, Oregon and Switzerland” said Ms Coombe. “It is time to ask why our lawmakers are denying us our rights.”

Ms Coombe said that SAVES is one of 38 member societies of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, and has been working for 20 years to achieve responsible, compassionate legislation that ensures people have the legal right to die according to their own faith and capacity.

CHOICE FOR AN ASSISTED DEATH IS OUR HUMAN RIGHT.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

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