

# **South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FREEDOM TO DIE IN SWITZERLAND, FORCED TO LIVE IN AUSTRALIA**

Another Australian forced to travel to Switzerland for legal assistance to die.

Dr John Elliott, medical doctor from Sydney, was suffering grievously from multiple myeloma and on January 24<sup>th</sup> he died quickly and peacefully with the assistance of Dignitas in Zurich. He said “I have made this trip halfway around the world to try to achieve control of my passing. My disease has dictated that I will soon die and I will die in pain. Worse than this, though, I will have no dignity in death”.

Desperate Australians, including some South Australians, will keep going to Switzerland for an assisted death and many more who cannot do this will be forced to attempt suicide or forced to suffer until the bitter end of their horrendous suffering.

A majority of our Members of Parliament in South Australia, our lawmakers, are responsible for this shameful state of affairs because they refuse to enact voluntary euthanasia legislation.

They have ignored, wrecked or railroaded the past 5 voluntary euthanasia bills presented here since 1995 – against the wishes of 76 -79% of South Australians, including majority support by Christians; against the facts.

Where is their compassion? Where is their common sense? What is their real agenda?

SHAME! SHAME! When will our lawmakers face the facts?

FACT: Voluntary euthanasia legislation respects everyone’s choice and it enables

- compassion
- control
- honesty
- regulation
- transparency
- accountability

Safeguards and guidelines make sound legislation achievable. The Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2006, soon to be introduced into the Lower House by Hon. Dr Bob Such, requires 14 steps before a person could access an assisted death and 7 more steps under which the law would be accountable in parliament, plus Objects of the Act and a monitoring committee comprised of up to 8 community representatives.

When will we be allowed the freedom to escape intractable suffering?

Medical assistance to die is a legal possibility in the Netherlands, Belgium, Oregon and Switzerland. Why not here?

#### **Contact**

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