

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PHYSICIAN ASSISTED DYING BILL NOW IN THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT.

SAVES congratulates its sister organization, Dying with Dignity Victoria, for its work in assisting parliamentary debate of the *Medical Treatment (Physician Assisted Dying) Bill* in the Legislative Council, a first for Victoria.

The courage and compassion of bill co-sponsors Colleen Hartland and Hon. Ken Smith must also be commended.

The Bill recognizes the right of a competent adult person who is suffering intolerably from a terminal or advanced incurable illness who has decided to end his or her life, to request a doctor to provide medical assistance to die peacefully.

South Australia is no longer a lone advocate for compassion and common sense in face of unbearable suffering from a hopeless illness.

BUT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA LAW.

81% of South Australians support choice for voluntary euthanasia (Newspoll 2007). It's been 13 years since John Quirke introduced the first voluntary euthanasia bill into our parliament in 1995.

Since that time 5 such bills have been debated but we are still waiting.

UNDENIABLE FACTS:

It is an undeniable fact that even the best of medical and palliative care can not alleviate all suffering.

It is an undeniable fact that some people suffer greatly when denied choice for voluntary euthanasia – they have tormented lives and tormented deaths.

It is an undeniable fact that if we treated our pets in this way we could be prosecuted for cruelty.

It is an undeniable fact that lack of legal choice for physician assisted dying or voluntary euthanasia drives desperate people to desperate action such as

- Suicide by violent means such as hanging, shooting and self mutilation.
- Traveling to Mexico to buy and smuggle Nembutal.
- Traveling to Switzerland for a legal assisted death.

WHY ARE WE STILL WAITING FOR LAW REFORM TO GIVE US CHOICE?

Contact

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