

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

**Patrons:**

Emeritus Professor JA Richardson  
Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SAVES IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH EXIT INTERNATIONAL / DR PHILIP NITSCHKE**

SAVES disassociates itself from comments by Dr Nitschke in which he discourages people to seek medical advice if they suspect they are losing their mental capacity. (The Australian June 20<sup>th</sup>) Frances Coombe, President of SAVES, said “Medical support is vital in such circumstances.”

SAVES is a law reform society, working for the legal choice of voluntary euthanasia, and has maintained its independence from Exit International since that organization was formed. Dr Philip Nitschke, Director of Exit International, is working on the development of a peaceful pill and other means of self deliverance that bypass the medical profession and the law.

SAVES actively seeks engagement of the medical profession and the law. There is no denying the need for a voluntary euthanasia law, with stringent safeguards and guidelines that ensure the best protection and representation for society.

### **THE DEEP SHAME OF GRAEME WYLIE’S SUFFERING**

Frances said “People are rightly outraged at the tragedy of Graeme Wylie’s protracted and intense suffering, shamefully forced upon him by the current law. In the circumstances however the judicial decision to convict the two women was appropriate.”

Graeme Wylie’s suffering highlights yet again the urgency of voluntary euthanasia law reform.

Under a voluntary euthanasia law Mr Wylie could have made an advance health directive before his dementia overtook him, directing that he be allowed medical assistance to die in his stated circumstances of unbearable suffering.

For our lawmakers to deny people choice for voluntary euthanasia is cruel, irrational and dangerous.

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