

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Patrons: Emeritus Professors JA Richardson, Graham Nerlich and John Willoughby

Media release

18.6.10

Starving and dehydration Forbidden for our pets – allowed for people.

The decision made by South Australian Supreme Court Justice Chris Kourakis yesterday has correctly enforced a woman's right to die by not taking food, fluids and her insulin medication. Her carers will rightly not be prosecuted for complying with her wishes.

The ruling, however correct, dramatically and tragically highlights that people with unrelievable and unbearable suffering currently have few options but to starve and dehydrate themselves to death. Hanging and firearms are other horrendous options forced upon suffering people by our law that prohibits voluntary euthanasia.

"Where is the compassion and common sense?" asks Frances Coombe, President of the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES) "That is a shameful cruelty in our so called civilised society."

"A person should be allowed the choice of a quick and peaceful death through legal voluntary euthanasia."

The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Oregon, Washington and Montana all now have voluntary euthanasia / physician assisted dying laws that allow people this option of last resort. These laws are working responsibly, contrary to the scare campaigns mounted by those moral busybodies who deny our right to choose.

SAVES reminds the general public that voluntary euthanasia bills will be returning in force in the SA Parliament soon. They will continue to haunt parliament until the issue is dealt with in a responsible and humanitarian way, The 81% of South Australians who support the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia are urged to tell their Members of Parliament – they want the right to a peaceful and dignified death.

Frances will be available for discussion on the parliament steps from 10.30 – 1.30 today as part of the SAVES monthly *Legalise Voluntary Euthanasia* days.

Further information:

Frances Coombe

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