

Two different Voluntary Euthanasia Bills

Bills have been introduced into
the Lower House of Parliament
(House of Assembly)

by the Hon Dr Bob Such

and into the Upper House
(Legislative Council)

by the Hon Mark Parnell.

The aim of each Bill is to allow a
competent adult to receive
medical help for a peaceful death
under carefully controlled
circumstances.

About the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES).

*The aim of SAVES is to
achieve a change in
legislation to permit a
choice for voluntary
euthanasia, in well defined
situations.*

*SAVES represents the
views of its members to
parliamentarians, the media
and interested bodies.
It provides information on
voluntary euthanasia by
regular meetings and on its
website. It does not assist in
the provision of voluntary
euthanasia.*

SAVES

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What is in the Bills before the South Australian Parliament?

Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2008
Hon Bob Such

Consent to Medical Treatment and
Palliative Care
(Voluntary Euthanasia)
Amendment Bill 2008
Hon Mark Parnell



South Australian
Voluntary Euthanasia Society
(SAVES)

What is in the Such Bill?

- a request for euthanasia can come only voluntarily from an adult person of sound mind
- the adult must be in the terminal phase of a terminal illness *and*
- have intolerable pain that cannot be relieved by methods that the person finds acceptable
- a request may not be made before the illness occurs
- the person must be examined by two independent doctors and the doctors must agree that the request is justified by the medical evidence
- the sufferer must be fully informed about his/her illness, including palliative care and all possible treatments and their likely outcomes
- two adult witnesses are required and a “cooling off” period of 48 hours must occur after a certificate of confirmation is completed by the doctor
- the request may be withdrawn at any time
- all prescribed documentation must be completed and forwarded to the State Coroner who will provide an annual report to Parliament
- medication will be prescribed for ingestion by the person or administration by the doctor
- any person may refuse to be involved in the process
- a doctor, pharmacist or health care provider who provides assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Bill will not be the subject of civil or criminal action

What is in the Parnell Bill?

- a request for euthanasia can come only voluntarily from an adult person of sound mind
- the adult may be in the terminal phase of a terminal illness *or*
- be permanently unconscious *or* have irreversible impairment of quality of life
- a request may be made before the illness occurs
- the person must consult a doctor and the doctor must be satisfied that the person is of sound mind, otherwise a psychiatrist must be consulted
- the sufferer must be fully informed about his/her illness, including palliative care and all possible treatments and their likely outcomes
- at a second appointment, not less than 24 hours later, the request must be made in the presence of an adult witness and the doctor
- the request may be withdrawn at any time
- all prescribed documentation must be completed and forwarded to the Voluntary Euthanasia Board of SA which has the power to intervene and which will provide an annual report to Parliament
- medication will be prescribed for ingestion by the person or administration by the doctor
- any person may refuse to be involved in the process
- a doctor, pharmacist or health care provider who provides assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Bill will not be the subject of civil or criminal action

What can you do to support the Bills?

The function of your Member of Parliament is to represent the views of his/her constituents.

To get either of these Bills through Parliament your Member needs to know of your support.

Write to your Member or, better still, go to see him/her.

Don't leave it to someone else - it may not happen if you do.

If your Member does not know your views they cannot be acted upon.

Write to Mark Parnell in support of his Bill and to your local Member in support of the Such Bill. To find the name of your local Member, contact the Electoral Office.

www.seo.sa.gov.au
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