

# Mercy Killings Opposed

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Pt Pirie Recorder

The Catholic Parish has raised serious concerns over a voluntary euthanasia proposal by resident Ian Wood.

Clergy members argue that it is not a natural form of death and a form of direct killing.

Father Leon Quinn said voluntary euthanasia was a violation of the Fifth Commandment. "We understand that there are very bad cases, but hard cases make bad law," he said.

He said it would open the floodgates to make it easier to kill people. Father Quinn said there was medication to ease pain in severe circumstances and while sometimes these drugs can act as a killer, it is never planned to do so.



"Medical professionals are the people who would have to commit the act, but they pledge to do no harm and could be pressured into killing someone," he said.

He said it was not God's intention to kill people.

Father Quinn said even though the proposal by Mr Wood would have stringent safeguards, it could be used for weaker purposes. "There is a chance that this could fall into the wrong hands," he said. He said

voluntary euthanasia was a form of suicide and it was morally unacceptable for Catholics.

Mr Wood's proposal comes under the Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia campaign which has backing in South Australia and nationally.

Mr Wood said this morning that the Fifth Commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill", as spoken of in the Bible, was "habitually trotted out" by opponents of euthanasia. "Later in the Bible, the Lord hands the Commandments to Moses ... and gives an instruction to go to war and kill the Midianites," he said. "It appears to be a contradiction."

He said a survey in South Australia in 2002 had found 69 percent of Catholics favored euthanasia.

"It shows that thinking Christians believe that a person with a hopeless illness and unrelieved pain should have the option regardless of what the hierarchy of any of the churches says," he said.

He said 81 percent of Anglicans surveyed had backed euthanasia.

PHOTO: UNITED...Father Paul Crotty, left, Sister Anne Higgins, Father Leon Quinn and Sister Mary Howard have spoken out against Ian Wood's voluntary euthanasia proposal. Father Quinn said even though the proposal by Mr Wood would have stringent safeguards, it could be used for weaker purposes. "There is a chance that this could fall into the wrong hands," he said. But Mr Wood said many Catholics backed euthanasia.