

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc.

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To members of the House of Assembly

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JO SHEARER

Dear Member,

After her first attempt failed on February 28th 2002, Jo Shearer finally succeeded in exercising her legal right to end her own life on Tuesday August 6th of that year. Jo had another possible 25 years of unbearable suffering ahead of her from a number of hopeless conditions and palliative care was not an option for her as she was not in the terminal stage of a terminal illness.

Jo wanted her death to receive publicity so that the cruelty of the present law would be highlighted.

This folder documents Jo's life and death. It contains:

- A covering letter from the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society, sent to the Members of the Legislative Council on May 21st 2002.
- Jo's open letter to all Members of Parliament, sent to the Members of the Legislative Council on this date
- Media release of Jo's death
- Jo's journal
- Samela Harris' article in The Advertiser

I hope this material will bring you an understanding of the intractable suffering that Jo faced and an appreciation of the horrendous future she faced without a legal choice for voluntary euthanasia.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Coombe
President

