

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Patron:

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To all members of the South Australian Parliament

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Ramon Sampedro – a man abused by the law.

Dear Member,

We are pleased to forward you a complimentary ticket for the highly acclaimed film “**The Sea Inside**”, showing now at the Nova Cinema, Rundle Street and Greater Union, Marion.

This tells the true story of Ramon Sampedro who became a quadriplegic after a diving accident at age 30. Ramon was a popular man with humour and strength, well loved and supported by devoted family and friends.

Despite this he found his suffering was unbearable. He described himself as “a head on a pillow”.

Ramon joined the Spanish right to die society and he appeared on radio and television, arguing for his right to die with dignity.

He learnt to write with his mouth and wrote a book - “Letters from Hell”.

After 26 years of forced existence Ramon died by assisted suicide in 1998 at age 56, following 6 years of unsuccessful struggle through the Spanish Constitutional Court and the Strasbourg Court to get legal aid to die. He was finally aided to die by unknown friends.

An attempt at prosecuting those people proved impossible as hundreds of people put their hands up and claimed they were one of the few present. Even some members of parliament did so. The law against choice for a quick and peaceful death through voluntary euthanasia was shown to be a tragic farce.

Ramon’s tragedy of suffering and the deep commitment of his brave friends who helped him to die can be likened to that of Queensland’s Nancy Crick.

As long as our law forces people to suffer, by denying them choice for voluntary euthanasia, brave family members and friends will risk their lives and liberty by helping loved ones to die.

Our ineffectual and cruel law has created anarchy. You can regain control by enacting the Dignity in Dying Bill.

Yours sincerely