

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)

Patron:

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To all members of the South Australian Parliament

Are you about to be sidelined?

The debate over voluntary euthanasia has changed significantly as a result of the activities of the Self-Deliverance New Technology Group (NuTech), outlined in the attached article. This is an international group of scientists and others whose aim is the promotion of research into effective and accessible means of self-deliverance, i.e., of ending one's life simply and painlessly. Some of this research is being conducted here in Australia.

When this group succeeds in its mission, those who wish to end their lives will have easy access to the means to do so, bypassing legislative controls and the medical and pharmaceutical professions. Legislators will no longer have to decide between bringing in a law to permit and regulate voluntary euthanasia, or maintaining the existing half-baked prohibition, because prohibition will no longer be an option. This is an alarming prospect that opens the way for ill-considered suicide, particularly of the distressed young and the anxious ageing.

The Nutech group has come into being out of frustration at the reluctance of legislators to legalise and control voluntary euthanasia under medical supervision. The effect of trying to prohibit a service that is demonstrably needed has been either to cause patients to die in unwanted suffering, or make doctors resort to subterfuges to help them. No one should be proud of this unregulated area of medical practice.

It will be in the public interest to counteract the latest development by bringing in a sensible law that puts Parliament in charge. The Dignity in Dying Bill 2001 does that, while leaving patients and doctors full freedom of conscience.

Please give the Bill your support and remain in control.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Coombe
President