

# THE BULLETIN

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA SOCIETY INC. (SAVES)

Vol 22 No 2 'No price is too great for the privilege of owning yourself' **July 2005**  
Rudyard Kipling

## Assault on freedom of information

The *Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Bill 2005* contains offences that were originally introduced in the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill 2004*. The Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee has handed down recommendations, after considering 31 submissions, including one by SAVES.

The provisions of the Bill include inserting new offences into the Criminal Code dealing with the use of a carriage service to 'access, transmit or otherwise make available suicide-related material; and possession, production, supplying or obtaining suicide-related material for use through a carriage service'. It also makes it an offence for a person to use the carriage service to 'counsel or incite suicide, with the intention that they or another person will use the material to counsel or incite suicide.' It would also be an offence to 'promote or provide instruction on a particular method of committing suicide, with the intention that the material be used to promote or provide instruction on that method of suicide'. (1) This particularly relates to the use of the internet, email and online applications.

The key issues raised by the committee of enquiry were from submissions, arguing both for and against the Bill citing variously that:

- the Bill is necessary for protection of the 'vulnerable'
- the measures are misguided, unnecessary and counterproductive
- there is support for the Bill
- the Bill involves curtailing free speech and access to information

- there are concerns over the terms and definitions used
- the Bill is inconsistent with the Customs Regulations

The Law Society of NSW made the pertinent point that the Bill would not protect the vulnerable or those at risk of suicide because it does not address the underlying causes of suicide, which include 'personal despondency, loneliness, depression, mental illness, family breakdown or death of a loved one, poverty, unemployment, financial ruin, substance abuse or the chronic pain of a terminal illness'. (2) Another submission stated in part that adults should have access to the kind of information and counselling prohibited by the Bill. Terminally ill people should not necessarily be considered vulnerable and prevented from accessing information. (3)

Targeting the internet was considered counterproductive as suicide has decreased since internet access became available in 1994 (4), and would certainly not have any impact on the common methods of suicide including hanging and motor vehicle exhaust. Other submissions noted that the internet cannot be controlled by any one country, and that there is no way that internet service providers can block access to material except by development of an Australian 'firewall'. (5)

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## ***The VE Bulletin - March 2005***

The voluntary euthanasia societies' submissions raised concerns that the Bill would seriously impinge on their activities in legitimately seeking law reform in relation to voluntary euthanasia.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill states that it would not capture debate, public discussion or advocacy for law reform if the person or organisation *does not intend* that the material be used to 'counsel or incite suicide, or promote or provide instruction on a method of committing suicide'. (6) However, as the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of Victoria argues, 'proving that one did not have the requisite intention not to encourage suicide while at the same time discussing the possibility of medically assisted dying would be difficult'. (7) SAVES argued that the phrase 'counsels or incites suicide' should be changed to 'promotes or incites suicide', a view not supported by the Department which claimed that, in the context of the Bill, the word 'counsels' has a narrow meaning of 'encouraging or urging the commission of a suicide'. (8) Yet, as Electronic Frontiers Australia notes, the word 'counsels' is not defined in the Bill and the phrase 'counsels suicide' is 'dangerously broad'. (9)

The committee made recommendations for changes, while still supporting the passage of the Bill. One of these was making changes so that the term 'counsels or incites suicide' reads 'counsels or incites another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide'.

One submission made the point that the offences proposed by the Bill cover a much broader range of material than that prohibited by amendments to the Customs Regulations which this Bill seeks to complement. As such the Bill would prohibit accessing material on the internet and other carriage services that is quite lawful to import, access, and distribute by other measures. (10)

SAVES considers that this Bill is inconsistent, draconian, and has far reaching proposals that impact on freedom of speech, education and information access. It is expected that the new censorship law will be passed in the Senate. (It was passed in the House of Representatives in May). If passed, the laws will take effect in December 2005, thereby providing a window of opportunity for people to make their views known.

The committee urges readers to write to the Federal MPs listed on page 355 in the front section of the telephone directory. If possible write to all listed Senators expressing opposition to the proposed Bill. Letters can be photocopied, put in envelopes with just the Senator's name on the front, and all envelopes included within one large envelope addressed to Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

Simply writing to one member is better than taking no action at all against this assault on freedom of information.

### **References:**

1. Senate Report *Provisions of the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Bill 2005*
2. Submission 18, Law Society of NSW
3. Committee Hansard, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005, Electronic Frontiers Australia
4. Submission 28, Electronic Frontiers Australia and Dr Philip Nitschke in Hansard 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005
5. Submission 23 Atheist Foundation of Australia and Electronic Frontiers Australia, Hansard 24<sup>th</sup> April 2005
6. Explanatory Memorandum, p 4
7. Submission 11.
- 8 Submission 32 Attorney General's Dept.
- 9 Submission 28 Electronic Frontiers Australia
- 10 *ibid*

*Julia Anaf*

## **Submission to the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2005**

SAVES' submission to the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Bill 2005, discussed above, was as follows :

'It is appropriate that the above bill is now separate from the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill 2004*.

The Explanatory Memorandum of this proposed legislation states that the use of a carriage service to advocate, discuss or debate law reform on euthanasia and/or suicide related issues is not to be an offence. This is sensible, acknowledging both

the importance of debate to our democracy and the approximately 80% of Australian support for assisted dying legislation.

However, I forward this submission to express deep concerns about points of the new proposed legislation.

If a person uses a carriage service for suicide related material that 'counsels or incites suicide', the person is to be guilty of an offence. This phrase is ambiguous and could be taken to mean 'counselling', which is a legitimate activity of voluntary euthanasia societies and EXIT International. Competent adults have the right to end their own lives. It is most important that those who see this as a possibility should have access to counselling to ensure that they do not act irrationally or by inappropriate means. Counselling can lead to a change of mind, or at least prevention of a disastrous attempt at self-deliverance. I strongly recommend that the phrase be changed to read 'promotes or incites suicide'. This would capture Internet chat rooms, for example, that have been known to intentionally promote and incite people to suicide, devoid of compassion and without regard to rational thinking.

The Bill also seeks to censor information on suicide related material. EXIT International provides a range of information, including that of palliative care. It does not promote a particular method of committing suicide or intend the material to be used by another person to commit suicide. People have a right to information. To censor information on suicide related material it would be necessary to also preclude a carriage service from being used for the production of books on self-deliverance. People have a right to choose their reading material. It is important to note that the increasing interest in such material is being driven directly by the lack of responsible legislation that would permit the option of a medically assisted death in face of intractable suffering.

The term 'directly or indirectly' is also of concern. The provision of information by EXIT International workshops or voluntary euthanasia societies is clearly not intended to promote suicide, nor incite people to commit it. It can, and has had, the reverse effect. It would be regrettable for this useful service to be hampered by allegations that indirect effects were intended.

Our concerns over the possible adverse impact of the proposed legislation have not been alleviated by the two additional subsections 474.29-A (3) and (4). Voluntary euthanasia societies, EXIT International and indeed all people have a right to engage in, not only public, but also private discussion and debate in their advocating of law reform relating to euthanasia and suicide. This discussion could involve the provision of information about suicide methods without any intention to incite or promote suicide.

I strongly urge you to alter the terminology of the Bill so that only those who intentionally incite or promote suicide are guilty of an offence.

*Frances Coombe  
President South Australia Voluntary Euthanasia Society.*

## **Australia Day Parade – censoring democracy**

As a response to the banning of SAVES participation in the 2005 Australia Day Grand Parade the Hon Sandra Kanck MLC Leader of the Australian Democrats issued a media release stating:

"It's astonishing that the Australia Day Council has decided to censure various organisations on the one day of the year we celebrate our democracy- The decision mocks the official Australia Day website that claims the day is a celebration of - ***Our freedom and democracy - A society built on fundamental rights and responsibilities- Freedom of thought and expression. - Participation in government and respect for and equality under the law'***

SAVES is in correspondence with both the Australia Day Council and the Adelaide City Council on this matter.

**SAVES committee would appreciate extra assistance. Basic computer literacy and email access is required. If you can help please ring 8379 3421.**

## **SAVES Committee at work: informing your MPs**

Changing the law requires ongoing engagement with elected members of parliament, including the provision of pertinent information on a range of issues. The SAVES committee is in regular written correspondence with all MPs, so that they are well informed when considering legislative change. The committee actively supported the first South Australian voluntary euthanasia bill in 1995. This was introduced by John Quirke and shamefully rejected without full debate. In 1996 support continued for the bill introduced by Anne Levy which progressed through the Social Development Committee until 1999 when it was rejected. Lobbying by the SAVES committee has continued throughout the passage of the *Dignity in Dying Bill*, first introduced in 2000.

This bill is now adjourned in the Lower House until after the next state election, and it is timely therefore to provide a synopsis of the information sent to MPs to date, and to place this on the public record.

### **2002**

**May** - SAVES sent a letter to all MPs written by the late Jo Shearer entitled *Open letter to Members of Parliament* concerning the relentless agony she was experiencing with no hope of alleviation.

**June** - SAVES forwarded to all MPs a copy of the joint VE Societies' media release *Nancy Crick's Death*, showing support for those who helped Nancy during her final illness.

**July** – 1) MPs were advised of the well financed opposition to the *Dignity in Dying Bill* by the Family First Party.

2) In that month parliamentarians were also provided with a series of quotes from Dr Roger Magnusson's book *Angels of Death – Exploring the Euthanasia Underground*, exposing the extensive practice of unregulated euthanasia.

3) A letter entitled *The plastic bag is to voluntary*

*euthanasia what the coat hanger was to abortion* was sent to MPs. This explained Nutech's work towards self-deliverance options, and urged parliamentarians to pass legislation so that ad hoc responses to suffering could be avoided.

**August** - 1) MPs were each sent a letter entitled *All that Shirley Nolan wanted was to die peacefully and with dignity*, which was accompanied by a range of material relating to her death, including her wish that it be given maximum publicity so that others may be spared the 'living hell' she was forced to endure.

2) Following shortly afterwards, Frances Coombe had the sad duty of informing parliamentarians about Jo Shearer's death, following earlier correspondence to them on her grave situation. The letter entitled *The life and death of Jo Shearer* was accompanied by a kit of information including her personal diary detailing her suffering.

**September** – 1) MPs were provided with information about a survey of Oregon nurses and social workers, and the Task Force to Improve the Care of Terminally-Ill Oregonians. Similar safeguards to those within the Oregon legislation exist in the *Dignity in Dying Bill*.

2) Also in September a letter was sent to MPs entitled *Why is the focus on 'hopelessly ill' in the Dignity in Dying Bill?*

**October** – 1) Legislative Council members were given information on seven surveys of Australian doctors' views on assisted dying canvassed between 1987 and 2001. SAVES advised members that a significant number of doctors risk criminal sanction by responding compassionately to their patients' hopeless and unbearable suffering.

2) Also in October all parliamentary members were issued with a copy of the guidebook *Questions and Answers on Euthanasia* published by the Netherlands Government to clarify the law, and to respond to scurrilous and unfounded accusations made against it.

**November** - Legislative Council members were sent information under the heading *A world*

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***overview of current assisted dying laws, judicial decisions and parliamentary initiatives*** in order to put the SA legislation in context.

### **2003**

June 1) A letter entitled ***Separation of Church and State*** was sent as a response to a Doctrinal Note drawn up by the Roman Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by the Pope, and sent to members of state parliament. The note inevitably raised questions about the role of church dictates in a secular democratic government, and SAVES made an appropriate response.

2) Also in June, following an article in *The Advertiser* about development of the self-deliverance COGEN machine by Nutech, SAVES wrote to parliamentary members about the need to enact voluntary euthanasia legislation as prohibition will no longer be an option.

3) Additionally in June a letter entitled ***The present prohibitive law against choice for voluntary euthanasia perpetuates suffering*** was sent to all MPs concerning the implications from the suspended sentence given to Alexander Maxwell who assisted his wife's suicide after a nine year battle with breast cancer.

### **July**

A letter focusing on the 'hopelessly ill' in law reform, was to draw attention to the fact that those suffering greatly with a terminal illness are relatively fortunate, as they only have a short time to live, unlike with those enduring the indefinite and unrelievable suffering of a hopeless illness .

September- A letter ***Lies and deception continue*** was sent upon the publication of the third report on medical end of life decisions in the Netherlands in 2001. This included information on the replicated survey in Australia some years earlier which showed that Australia has five times the number of lives ended without explicit request.

October- MPs were sent a letter ***Good Deaths***

***have positive effect on the grieving process***, covering a detailed report of research conducted by the University Medical Centre in Utrecht which showed that people whose loved ones had their decision to die by voluntary euthanasia respected, had less traumatic grief symptoms and current feelings of grief, as well as less post-traumatic stress than those people whose loved ones had died a 'normal' death.

November - MPs were given information on the activities of the ***World Federation of Right to Die Societies***.

### **2004**

April - MPs were provided with copies of SAVES' correspondence to Senator Chris Ellison on the ***Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications and Other Measures) Bill*** outlawing free speech via electronic media on issues around suicide.

August - Members of the House of Assembly were sent a copy of the paper ***A Synopsis of disease and symptoms which are at best difficult, at worst impossible to control with palliative care***, which had previously been published in the *VE Bulletin*.

### **Recent information:**

### **2005**

#### **February**

Throughout the passage of voluntary euthanasia legislation, beginning with the Quirke bill in 1995, followed by the Anne Levy bill and currently the *Dignity in Dying* Bill, there have been wide ranging comments made by MPs, both in support of, and in opposition to, the legislation. These statements have been recorded in Hansard. Negative comments were analysed and responded to by SAVES in correspondence to MPs entitled ***Parliamentary opposition to voluntary euthanasia legislation in South Australia***.

March - ***Judicial activism to the rescue of ineffective legislative authority*** was the title of a letter which addressed the possibility that case law may step in where politicians 'fear to tread',

pointing to the judicial role in lawmaking. The points raised in this correspondence are important ones and are therefore reproduced in full:

'Assisted suicides have been a fact of life for many years and are now continually in the news.

- They are usually carried out by close family members who act out of love and compassion.
- In law these represent serious crimes, yet often result in suspended or non-custodial sentences. For instance in May 2004 John Godfrey was convicted in Tasmania of assisting his 88 year-old mother's suicide, after she had two unsuccessful attempts. There are many other recent cases in Australia.
- Although people continue to be charged with such crimes, it is exceptional in Australia that punishment follows. Instead the judgment essentially becomes a judgment on the existing law, rather than the individual before the court.
- It is usual that a charge of murder is not laid even with clear intention and action.
- The whole question of what constitutes 'assisted suicide' is also shrouded in mystery.
- The law is brought into constant disrepute and thereby suffers weakened respect.
- The possibility of criminal charges being laid causes anxiety and distress for the individual and further complicates the grief process. This is an indictment on our so-called civilised society.
- In dismissing or giving insignificant penalties judges are finding a way to act out of compassion, to circumvent an unjust and unworkable law.
- The judiciary's role of lawmaker should not be overlooked, for while 'judicial activism' may be decried by legislators, courts are obliged to take the lead when parliamentarians refuse to address the issue.
- The current law is out of step with the views of the majority of the electorate, leading to people taking the law into their own hands.

- It is clear that these tragic cases point to the urgent need for legal avenues by which an incurably ill person can approach their doctor in a climate of security.
- A voluntary euthanasia law would allow those contemplating ill-considered and secretive action, access to rational and compassionate advice. In doing so the law may actually save lives.

April – Finally, correspondence was sent to all MPs entitled ***Ramon Sampredo – a man abused by the law***, concerning the life story of Ramon Sampredo, so poignantly captured in the film 'The Sea Inside'. Complimentary tickets that had been provided to SAVES accompanied the letter so that MPs could see for themselves why Ramon Sampredo's book was entitled 'Letters from Hell'.

SAVES will continue to provide parliamentarians with important and timely information pertinent to legislative change to allow choice for voluntary euthanasia. (Copies of any these letters can be arranged by sending a stamped, self addressed envelope to SAVES).

***Dying is personal-And it is profound.  
For many the thought of an ignoble end,  
steeped in decay, is abhorrent. A quiet,  
proud death, bodily integrity intact, is a  
matter of extreme consequence.***

*Justice William Brennan, Cruzan Decision 1990*

## **Further update on Advance Directives**

SAVES has reviewed the information provided to members and the general public concerning advance directives or anticipatory directions. As previously advised in the VE Bulletin, both the SA Dept of Health (Formerly Dept of Human Services) and the Office of the Public Advocate have responsibility for managing advance directives in SA. The information which will be placed on SAVES website is reproduced as a guide.

**Making an Advance Directive for Health Care in South Australia under the Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995 or Guardianship and Administration Act 1993**

*Advance Directive* is a general term used to describe legal documents containing instructions to take effect some time in the future. An *Advance Directive for Health Care*, sometimes referred to as a Living Will or Anticipatory Direction, is a written statement of health care you want should you be unable to make decisions about your medical treatment.

SAVES is fully and actively supportive of health care advance directives. We all have a responsibility to set out our wishes for health care in the future against the possibility that we may be unable to communicate those wishes at the time. This situation may arise through accident or illness, and those caring for us may find themselves uncertain about what medical treatment we would wish. If this is not recorded they will have to decide as best they can. They may find the uncertainty and responsibility distressing. In any event, setting out our wishes will increase our chances of receiving the treatment we want. It is also advisable to let your family and friends know of your advance directive so that any possible source of conflict is addressed. We should also be aware that in the absence of any advance directive or medical power of attorney (see below), a medical practitioner may be put in the position of carrying out treatment without knowing the patient's wishes.

There are two ways of completing an advance directive for healthcare in SA. These are under the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995* and the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*.

South Australia's *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995* makes provision for two types of advance directive:

- an Anticipatory Direction and
- a Medical Power of Attorney which appoints

a Medical Agent or Agents to make medical decisions on your behalf in accordance with your written instructions

Either or both directives may be used.

The Anticipatory Direction operates only when a person enters the terminal stage of a terminal illness or a persistent vegetative state, and becomes incapable of making decisions about medical treatment. The Medical Power of Attorney is less restricted. A Medical Agent can act at any time of mental incapacity, not only in the terminal stage of a terminal illness or a persistent vegetative state. Appointing a Medical Agent can increase your chances of having your wishes respected, and help if uncertainties about your treatment arise.

South Australia's *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* makes provision for the appointment of an Enduring Guardian or Guardians to make a range of medical, personal and lifestyle decisions on your behalf should you become temporarily or permanently unable to give informed consent for any reason. This advance directive can take effect at any time of mental incapacity.

The *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act Schedules* and explanatory information can be obtained from Service SA, 101 Grenfell St Adelaide, Tel 132324, or downloaded from the website of the SA Department of Health <<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/consent/>> which includes a link to the website of the Office of the Public Advocate <http://www.opa.sa.gov.au/> for information on appointing an Enduring Guardian under the *Guardianship and Administration Act*. An Enduring Power of Guardianship kit may be purchased over the counter at Service SA or by telephone and credit card. For further inquiries contact the Guardianship Board freecall on 1800 800 501. Information and advice is also available from the Office of the Public Advocate, freecall on 1800 066 969. A lawyer is not needed to complete an advance directive. However, in some circumstances, eg if your family situation is complicated, you may wish to consult one.

Advance Directives do not allow for a quick and peaceful death by voluntary euthanasia, but for the refusal of further medical treatment, or the withdrawal of medical treatment including life support systems. There must be no intention to hasten death. The dying process therefore takes effect in due course, over a matter of days or weeks.

It has been claimed that Advance Directives are at times ignored. It is potentially a criminal offence to disregard an Advance Directive and any suspicion that this may be happening or may have happened should be reported to the Dept Health Research Policy / Ethics Unit on 8463.6145. Keep in mind, however, that an Advance Directive is only part of a process of communication that involves the patient, the health care team and others with an interest in the welfare of the patient. As Advance Directives become better known, and patients and the health care profession become better equipped for their use, their effectiveness will increase. Advance Directives, simple in concept, can be complex in practice. Despite the possibility of complications, they provide your best chance of having your wishes known and respected should you be unable to speak for yourself. We are fortunate in South Australia that some of the ambiguity surrounding medical care has been removed by enlightened legislation. We may expect that the prohibition of voluntary euthanasia will be removed eventually and that later it will be permissible to include a request for euthanasia in an Advance Directive.

#### **Life Values Statement**

No matter how careful you may be in setting out your wishes, it is possible that something unforeseen will arise which will create uncertainty. SAVES has prepared a two page form that may help in this situation. It allows you to indicate your wishes on a 5 point scale for 6 specific life situations. It also allows you to request voluntary euthanasia should it become legal after you have lost competence. Although the Life Values Statement does not have legal status, it could influence decisions in unusual situations

## **World News**

### **USA**

A national survey of 1,000 physicians reveals that 57% believe it is ethical to assist a person to die if making a rational choice due to unbearable suffering. The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Social and Religious Research and HCD Research, undertook a survey of doctors in response to a challenge to Oregon's *Death with Dignity Act*. This showed that 41% support the legalisation of physician assisted suicide under a wide range of circumstances, 30% support legalisation in certain cases, and 29% oppose it unequivocally.

Those surveyed represented doctors from Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox Christian and other), Jewish (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and secular) Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist religious traditions. Factors informing their stance included their understanding of obligations as physicians (40%), general moral values (24%), their view of patient autonomy (20%), and religious beliefs (13%).

Information provided by NEW YORK (Business wire)  
March 3, 2005

### **Oregon – Seventh Annual Report on Physician Assisted Suicide**

The seventh annual report from Portland Oregon on the Oregon assisted suicide law revealed a 12% decrease in the number of people utilizing the law. A total of 37 people took a lethal dose of drugs last year after requesting assistance from their doctors under the landmark law, which went into effect in 1998. There was also a decline in the number of requests for prescribed medication. The average age was 64 years and most had a college education, according to the report by the Oregon Department of Human Services. As in the past, most people suffered from cancer. Despite seven years of practice, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act remains under challenge by the Bush administration.

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Also in USA the former Attorney General John Ashcroft warned that he would use the federal Controlled Substances Act to punish Oregon doctors who prescribe lethal doses of drugs under the Oregon law. But Oregon Attorney General immediately filed suit in federal court to prevent Ashcroft from interfering.

U.S. District Judge Robert Jones agreed that states have regulated doctors since the nation was founded and there was nothing in the federal drug act to suggest Congress ever intended to give such authority to the attorney general; a ruling later affirmed by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. However the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a final appeal, possibly in October, with a decision in 2006.

For further information see Oregon Department of Human Services: <http://www.dhs.state.or.us>

### **Council of Europe**

In December 2004 the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for the Council of Europe approved the revised Marty Report on 'Assistance to Patients at end of Life'. Following debate on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the Council of Europe failed to adopt the report which sought to

- Study various approaches in other states
- Provide specific rights for patients including consent to and cessation of treatment
- Provide palliative care units where they do not exist
- Define in law the terms by which treatment may be discontinued and
- Promote public discussion on issues around end of life decision making.

The report recognised that member states were at different stages in addressing end of life issues and therefore did not seek any direct move to allow choice for voluntary euthanasia. Right to Die groups in Europe will continue to pursue their objectives with the relevant bodies.

### **Britain**

In Britain a woman at the centre of a High Court judgment has been assisted to die in Switzerland. This followed the court lifting a ban on her

husband accompanying her abroad, leaving the decision of whether or not to prosecute to the Crown Prosecutor and police. This is a significant judgment in respect of public policy and the legal standing of the Suicide Act.

### **SAVES: Future events**

Please show your support by attending:

- October 18<sup>th</sup> ***Shirley Nolan Day*** between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm on Parliament House steps with MPs as guest speakers.
- SAVES' awareness days that are continuing to be held on Parliament House steps at regular intervals. Future dates set so far are July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup> between 11.00 am AND 2.00 pm. Please phone 8379 3421 if you are able to help, even if only for an hour.

### **New mobile display launch**

SAVES new mobile display, made possible by a generous bequest from a former SAVES treasurer, Arthur Cys, will be put on display and launched at the Circulating Library, North Tce, on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> between 6.00 and 7.00 pm. Members are warmly invited to attend, but will need to reply by phoning 8379 3421 as soon as possible as space is quite limited.

### **Bulletin corrections**

The March 2005 *VE Bulletin* included some incorrect information. Firstly it stated that Professor Jim Richardson was a founding patron of SAVES, rather than founding president - my apologies Jim for the 'slip of the quill'. It was, of course, Sir Mark Oliphant who was founding patron. The Bulletin was also listed as being 'Volume 21, No 3 instead of Volume 22 No 1. These errors are corrected for the record.

*Julia Anaf*

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Incorporated  
Statement of Receipts and Payments for period  
1st March 2004 to 28th February 2005

Opening Balance - 1st March 2004	\$ 1,999.40
<b>Receipts</b>	
Transfer from Term Deposit	\$ 8,131.04
Donations Received	\$ 5,065.60
Interest Received	\$ 1,139.53
Sales of Literature	\$ 115.00
Member Subscriptions	\$ 8,355.00
Transfer from Cash Management Account	\$ 4,000.00
	<u>\$26,806.17</u>
	<b>\$28,805.57</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Advertising	\$ 4,315.05
Bank Charges	\$ 38.20
Bulletin Postage	\$ 962.83
Bulletin Print	\$ 1,998.85
Conferences & Seminars	\$ 294.00
Donations	\$ 250.00
Equipment & Asset Purchases	\$ 3,456.64
Equipment & Hire	\$ 132.00
Gifts to speakers	\$ 92.99
Insurance	\$ 671.55
Internet Expenses	\$ 149.00
Parking	\$ 68.70
Photocopying	\$ 213.25
Postage	\$ 397.55
Printing & Stationery	\$ 1,494.86
Rent	\$ 384.40
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 372.35
Subscriptions	\$ 49.00
Sundry Expenses	\$ 11.85
Telephone	\$ 582.78
Travel Expenses	\$ 543.00

C B A Cash Management Trust

Opening Balance - 1st March 2004	\$ 7,017.66
Transfer to Working Account	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
	<b>\$ 3,017.66</b>
Interest Received	\$ 550.85
Transfer from Working Account	\$ 6,000.00
Bequest	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
Closing Balance - 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	<u>\$12,568.51</u>


Arthur Cys Bequest Term Deposit

Opening - Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2004	\$26,400.23
Funds Expended on Reimbursing Office Expenses	<u>\$ 8,131.04</u>
Closing - Balance 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	<u>\$18,269.19</u>

Summary

Working Account	\$ 6,326.72
Cash Management Trust	\$12,568.51
Arthur Cys Term Deposit	<u>\$18,269.19</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>\$37,164.42</u></b>

I have examined the books and records of S.A. Voluntary Euthanasia Soc. Inc. for the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005 handed to me and have received all the explanations I required. In my opinion, based on those books, records and explanations, the above Statement of Receipts and Payments gives a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Society for that year.



Bevan L Craig FCIS  
 Hon. Auditor 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES) at  
The Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC), 195 Gilles St, Adelaide.

**2.15 pm Sunday July 31st 2005**

Guest speakers will be Ms Jenny Wright from the Office of the Public advocate, and Ms Gillian Lewis Coles from the Dept Health who will speak on the Guardianship Act and the Consent to medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act

This will provide important information for anyone interested in the benefits of making advance directives.

**Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.  
Bring your friends. All welcome.**

**Future 2005 public meeting dates: 20th November.**

## **\*SAVES is not able to help people end their lives\***

**A Bequest is one way to make a significant gift to further the society's aim to achieving law reform-** The appropriate working is:

"I give to the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society the sum of \$..... free of duties."

In the unlikely event that you wish to leave your entire estate to SAVES it would read: "I give, devise and bequest the whole of my estate to the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society"

<b>Membership Fees</b>	<b>SAVES MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>	Email address if you would like to be advised of special activities
Annual Single \$20 Double \$25 Concession Annual Single \$10 Double \$14 Life Membership Single \$170 Double \$280	New member ( ) Renewal ( ) Date _____ Membership Fees \$ _____ Donation towards the work of SAVES \$ _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other _____ Total \$ _____ Given name or initial _____ Surname _____ Address _____ _____ Postcode _____ Ph (h) _____ (w) _____	d.o.b. (optional) _____
<b>Annual fees fall due on 28<sup>th</sup> February.</b>	Please make cheque or money order payable to SAVES and send to Membership Officer, SAVES, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071. <b>SAVES' members support the society's primary objective, which is a change in the law, so that in appropriate circumstances and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgement and conscience of the doctor.</b>	
<b>*SAVES IS NOT ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES*.</b>		

## SAVES' Primary Objective:

A change to the law in South Australia so that in appropriate circumstances, and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgement and conscience of the doctor.



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The VE Bulletin is published three times a year by the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES). Letters, articles and other material for possible publication are welcome and should be sent to *The VE Bulletin Editor, SAVES, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071.*

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**Editor: Julia Anaf**

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