

# THE BULLETIN

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

**Vol 26 No 1. 'No price is too great for the privilege of owning yourself' March 2009**

*Rudyard Kipling*

## A 'dual approach' to law reform

Two voluntary euthanasia Bills are now before state parliament. These are the *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2008* introduced into the Lower House (House of Assembly) by the Hon. Dr Bob Such (Ind), and the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care (Voluntary Euthanasia) Amendment Bill*, introduced by the Hon Mark Parnell (Greens) into the Upper House (Legislative Council). The aim of each Bill is to allow a competent adult the right to receive medical help for a peaceful death under carefully controlled circumstances.

As reported in the July 2007 *VE Bulletin*, the Bob Such Bill had originally been introduced as the *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2007* on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 but lapsed when parliament was prorogued. It was reintroduced on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The same edition of this bulletin flagged the Hon Parnell's stated intention to 'work with other members of parliament over the remainder of my time here to ensure that we do eventually get legislation in place that provides for death with dignity'. **A comparative analysis of both Bills is provided on page 2.**

\*\*\*\*\* "CALLING CHRISTIANS TO ACTION" See page 3

**SAVES is not affiliated with Exit International / Dr Philip Nitschke and opposes the public availability of a 'peaceful pill'.**

- **Please support the Bills:**
- *The function of your MP is to represent the views of his/her constituents.*
- *To get either of these Bills through Parliament your Member needs to know of your support.*
- *Write to or phone your MP, or better still, go to see him/her.*
- *Don't leave it to someone else- it may not happen if you do.*
- *If your member does not know your views they cannot be acted upon.*
- *Canvassing of political opinion shows that personalised rather than generic letters are more effective, especially if concise and well written. Letters which also pose a question require reflection prior to answering and may assist the consciousness- raising process.*
- **Write to Mark Parnell in support of his Bill and to your local Member in support of the Such Bill. To find the name of your local member, contact the Electoral Office:**
- **[www.seo.sa.gov.au](http://www.seo.sa.gov.au) or 8401 4300**

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<i>What is in the Such Bill?</i>	<i>What is in the Parnell Bill?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a request for euthanasia can come only voluntarily from an adult person of sound mind</li> <li>▪ the adult must be in the terminal phase of a terminal illness <i>and</i></li> <li>▪ have intolerable pain that cannot be relieved by methods that the person finds acceptable</li> <li>▪ a request may not be made before the illness occurs</li> <li>▪ the person must be examined by two independent doctors and the doctors must agree that the request is justified by the medical evidence</li> <li>▪ the sufferer must be fully informed about his/her illness, including palliative care and all possible treatments and their likely outcomes</li> <li>▪ two adult witnesses are required and a “cooling off” period of 48 hours must occur after a certificate of confirmation is completed by the doctor</li> <li>▪ the request may be withdrawn at any time</li> <li>▪ all prescribed documentation must be completed and forwarded to the State Coroner who will provide an annual report to Parliament</li> <li>▪ medication will be prescribed for ingestion by the person or administration by the doctor</li> <li>▪ any person may refuse to be involved in the process</li> <li>▪ a doctor, pharmacist or health care provider who provides assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Bill will not be the subject of civil or criminal action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a request for euthanasia can come only voluntarily from an adult person of sound mind</li> <li>▪ the adult may be in the terminal phase of a terminal illness <i>or</i></li> <li>▪ be permanently unconscious <i>or</i> have irreversible impairment of quality of life</li> <li>▪ a request may be made before the illness occurs</li> <li>▪ the person must consult a doctor and the doctor must be satisfied that the person is of sound mind, otherwise a psychiatrist must be consulted</li> <li>▪ the sufferer must be fully informed about his/her illness, including palliative care and all possible treatments and their likely outcomes</li> <li>▪ at a second appointment, not less than 24 hours later, the request must be made in the presence of an adult witness and the doctor</li> <li>▪ the request may be withdrawn at any time</li> <li>▪ all prescribed documentation must be completed and forwarded to the Voluntary Euthanasia Board of SA which has the power to intervene and which will provide an annual report to Parliament</li> <li>▪ medication will be prescribed for ingestion by the person or administration by the doctor</li> <li>▪ any person may refuse to be involved in the process</li> <li>▪ a doctor, pharmacist or health care provider who provides assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Bill will not be the subject of civil or criminal action</li> </ul>

***This information is taken from SAVES pamphlet ‘What is in the Bills before the South Australian Parliament?’ which has been distributed publicly. Phone 8379 3421 if you want copies for distributing***

## Calling Christians to ACTION!



***‘Christians supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia’*** is the name of a new group in the making, calling for Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with voluntary euthanasia. Rev. Trevor Bensch has been the catalyst for the formation of the group. I asked him his views on voluntary euthanasia from his Christian perspective. His response was so supportive I suggested he send it to all MPs. Hon. Mark Parnell quoted sections of this letter in his speech introducing his VE Bill, and now the letter is in Parliamentary Hansard.

Activities will include sending letters to Members of Parliament, issuing media releases and generally making it known that many committed Christians support choice for voluntary euthanasia, holding it to be consistent with Jesus' message of love and compassion. It is envisaged that any proposed letter would be circulated to all people involved in the group, preferably by email but this isn't essential, and all those who indicate agreement with the content of the letter would have their name included at the end of the letter as signatories, in addition to the actual signature of the group spokesperson/co-ordinator writing the letter. This need be your only commitment but of course you are very welcome to contribute further!!

Ironically, the main opposition to law reform arises from Christians in the fundamentalist churches. There is no doubt that their dogmatic approach is giving all Christians a bad name, which is disturbing. Many moderate Christians from all denominations already support choice for voluntary euthanasia. It is essential for these Christians to become active, standing proudly in their faith and giving voice to the significant majority of Christian support shown in surveys over the past 15 years.

**This is an important initiative that urgently needs your support.**

**Are you willing to put your name forward as a “signatory”?**

I have agreed to be a contact and provide email support for the group. Please email me at [ChristiansforVE@westnet.com.au](mailto:ChristiansforVE@westnet.com.au), write to my address below, or phone (08) 8632 2272 for further details. (I can phone you back to save on STD charges)

Ian Wood, 429 Anzac Road Port Pirie. SA 5540 Email  
[ChristiansforVE@westnet.com.au](mailto:ChristiansforVE@westnet.com.au)

Rev. Trevor Bensch 38 Trimmer Parade Woodville West 5011

### **President's report: November meeting**

SAVES president Frances Coombe welcomed members and guests to the November 2008 meeting which 'celebrated' SAVES' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She expressed her appreciation for all the members of the committee and Task Force over the years, but space does not permit individual acknowledgements here.

Frances advised that retiring Democrats MP and active voluntary euthanasia law reform campaigner for many years, the Hon Sandra

Kanck, has offered her time and expertise by joining SAVES Task Force from February 2009. Frances also reported on her own appointment as an expert advisor on a state government review of advance directives. The stage 1 Report is now complete, recommending changes to law and policy. Stage 2 supports the stage 1 recommendations and is focused on implementation and practice, but will be at the discretion of the Attorney General.

Frances advised on a number of issues on the international scene, including that Washington has now become the second state in the USA to legalise physician-assisted-dying, which was reported in *The Seattle Times* on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Also reported on was the November ruling in Italy that supported cessation of treatment for a woman who had been in an irreversible coma for 16 years and whose father had been fighting for ten years against Catholic officials and politicians who follow the Vatican's line that removing life support is euthanasia.

In Britain *The Guardian* featured an article by a leading authority on end-of-life decision making, Professor Emily Jackson, who began a recent lecture with the question 'What is the most common cause of death in Britain?'. Her answer was 'death by killing'. This was to make the point that one third of registered deaths are by deliberate morphine overdose and one third by the removal of life support; both pre-meditated acts by medical staff.

This point was made to note that judges are in a position to help because they cannot realistically prosecute two thirds of the medical profession, and they appear unwilling to prosecute the distressed families accompanying loved ones to die with the assistance of *Dignitas* in

Switzerland. They are on the verge of rewriting the law due to the reticence of parliamentarians to deal with the issue. Following Frances' update of local and international affairs, Senator Simon Birmingham was invited to address the meeting on the ways in which he believes governments have unnecessary levels of control over an individual's personal liberties. Following this very engaging talk and discussion, the meeting ended with the sharing of a beautiful commemorative cake made by former minutes secretary Leonie Moore.

### **Honesty is *still* the first victim**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 an article written by then SAVES vice president, Dr Eric Gargett, entitled 'Honesty the First Victim', was published in *The Advertiser*, in response to distortions promulgated by opponents of law reform during a time of parliamentary debate on the issue. It has become obvious that it is timely to again reflect on this article, due to the same distortions still being put forward nearly fifteen years later. In a radio interview (5AA 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008) discussing the issue of voluntary euthanasia law reform, Family First MP, Dennis Hood, made the following statement:

*' ....on an annual basis, according to Holland's own figures, there's something like or eight or nine hundred people euthanased each year without their expressed consent '.*

While these claims are aired widely, what is not acknowledged, although established by sound academic surveys, is that Australia has a far greater rate of lives ended without request due to the need for covert, rather than open practices. Eric Gargett's 1995 article was partly in response to then Family First MP, Pastor Andrew Evans, who quoted a Netherlands survey showing that 1000

lives were ended without express request. Although these should not be condoned they were patients close to death and clearly suffering grievously: 86% were incapable of making a request although 65% had earlier made their wishes known. A replica of this survey reported in 1997 (1) showed that Australia had a rate five times higher. Thirty per cent of deaths were preceded by a medical decision with explicit aims to end the patient's life. Only four per cent of these were in response to a direct patient request. In 2001, Douglas et al (2) published their survey of 683 Australian general surgeons. Thirty six per cent reported that they had given drugs in doses greater than was necessary to relieve symptoms with the intention of hastening death. Another twenty per cent reported that they had given drugs with the intention of hastening death, but without the explicit request of the patient. Nearly two per cent reported assisting with a suicide, and four per cent reported having acceded to requests for voluntary euthanasia. Therefore, to reiterate Dr Eric Gargett's argument in the 1995 article:

*'Opponents of voluntary euthanasia should stop playing with words and figures, confusing the issue with versions of what did or might happen in the Netherlands, or constructing alarming scenarios. They should face voluntary euthanasia on its merits as a compassionate response to the doctor's dilemma when the preservation of life is not compatible with the relief of suffering and the patient wishes only to die.'*

#### References:

- (1) Kuhse H, Singer P, Baume P, Clark M, Rickard M End-of-life decisions in Australian medical practice. *Med J Aust* 1997.  
 (2) Douglas C, Kerridge I, Rainbird K, McPhee J, Hancock L, Spigelman A. 'The intention to hasten death: a survey of attitudes and practices of surgeons in Australia.' *Med J Aust* 2001.

## SAVES welcomes Sandra Kanck

SAVES' executive is both honoured and delighted that Hon Sandra Kanck has agreed to join its Task Force which is the strategy and policy arm of SAVES. Sandra, former leader of the South Australian Democrats, has recently retired from 15 years of exemplary service as a Member of the Legislative Council. SAVES awarded honorary life membership to Sandra in 2002 in recognition of her distinguished work in promoting the issue of voluntary euthanasia law reform; having introduced two Dignity in Dying Bills in the period 2000 – 2004.

Parliamentary colleagues from all parties acknowledged Sandra's contribution over the 15 years, commending her passion, courage, tenacity, courtesy, professionalism and sincerity. Sandra was said to have acted above and beyond the call of duty in championing human rights and in her unswerving commitment to environmental issues. The Hon Rob Lucas said that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work with her. We look forward to a happy and productive relationship with Sandra in our work for law reform. *Frances Coombe*

## Farewell Leonie

Our long-standing minutes secretary, Leonie Moore, is 'moving on'. SAVES congratulates Leonie on an interstate appointment with the Army Band; a position she is thrilled about due to the range of new challenges and professional and social networks this opportunity brings. We have been appreciative of all Leonie's hard work (long Monday nights taking the minutes!). We have also enjoyed several batches of cookies and cakes over the years which were made with flair. All the best Leonie; we will miss you. Committee member Pat Macaskill has kindly assumed the role of minutes secretary. *Frances Coombe*

**And.....Welcome Ken**

SAVES is also delighted to welcome Ken Hausner as our new voluntary web manager. Ken has an academic background in education and the educational uses of computers. His professional roles included school counselor and information technology coordinator at regional high schools. As a counselor Ken dealt with a wide range of challenging personal issues as he built trusting relationships with students. He also developed teachers' computer skills and taught the use of a wide range of software. Since his retirement in 2001 Ken has been a volunteer ambulance officer which has again called upon his counseling skills in life and death situations. SAVES is indeed fortunate to have Ken assist in the maintenance of our website, which is, of course, an acknowledged source of educational material for teachers and students alike. Thanks too to consultant Jeremy who ensured a smooth transition for Ken.

**The international scene  
Washington's Death with Dignity Act**

Washington State has voted to allow increased end- of-life options for its citizens. Initiative Measure 1000 was enacted by the citizens of Washington at the general election on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to allow aid in dying. It was initiated by former Governor Booth Gardner, and of the 1,715,219 votes, (57.82%) were in favor and 1,251,255 (42.18%) against. There were 2,966,474 votes (100.00%) total. The initiative is based on Oregon Measure 16 which was passed in 1994 and overwhelmingly reapproved in 1997 following a Supreme Court challenge.

The Washington Act allows for a competent and terminally ill adult to end their lives in a humane and dignified way under prescribed

conditions. These include full informed consent, competency assessed by two physicians, compliance with a range of safeguards including waiting periods, residency requirements, and physician responsibilities and immunities.

Barbara Coombs Lee, president of Compassion and Choices, a Denver national right-to-die organization, said her group hopes to pass similar initiatives in other states in the future. The I-1000 campaign was the most expensive of the year's statewide initiatives and raised more than \$4.9 million from individuals and organizations. The biggest donors against the move included Catholic groups, such as the Seattle and other dioceses and the Knights of Columbus raising \$1.6million in total.

**References:**

- (1)A transcript of the Act is available at: [www.candcofwa.org/docs/TextforI1000.pdf](http://www.candcofwa.org/docs/TextforI1000.pdf) For further information contact Washington Dept of Health [www.doh.wa.gov/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/)
- (2)Janet Tu, Seattle Times 5<sup>th</sup>November2008
- (3)<http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2008/11/05/washington-passes-initiative-1000-legalizing-physician-assisted-suicide/>

**Now...Montana follows Washington**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, a Montana judge ruled that Montana will be the third state allowing choice for physician assistance in dying. State District Court Judge Dorothy McCarter ruled in a lawsuit that had been filed by a terminally ill Billings man, four physicians and a nonprofit patients' rights group, Compassion & Choices, which is a leading advocate of Oregon's Death with Dignity law. McCarter ruled that mentally competent, terminally ill Montanans have a right to obtain medications that can be self-administered to bring about a peaceful death if they find their suffering unbearable. The ruling allows physicians to prescribe medication without fear of criminal

prosecution. Although state doctors groups have generally opposed assisted dying, the Montana Medical Association chose not to oppose the will of the people; a significant symbolic and practical supportive measure.  
**Reference:** CBS News 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008

### **United Kingdom**

An attitude survey of 460 general practitioners across the UK has revealed that two fifths support the legalization of voluntary euthanasia and would be prepared to assist in helping a terminally ill patient to die, suggesting intensified pressure on the British Medical Association to review its oppositional stance and adopt a neutral position. The results coincide with renewed calls for debate, due to the steep increase in suffering individuals being forced to seek relief in Switzerland.

**Reference:**  
HealthCareRepublic.com 5<sup>th</sup> February 200

### **American Public Health Association Policy supports patient rights**

In October 2008 the American Public Health Association (APHA) adopted a policy supporting death with dignity for terminally-ill patients after a review of Oregon's ten year old law which demonstrated that aid-in-dying has 'posed no harm to patients, vulnerable populations, or physicians'. APHA is now the fourth and largest major national medical association to adopt this position. The others are the American College of Legal Medicine, the American Medical Students' Association, and the American Medical Women's Association. Kathryn Tucker, Compassion and Choices Legal Director, commended the public health leaders for supporting additional patient choice at the end of life, "The review of Death with Dignity by the APHA has confirmed once again the benefits and safety

of the Act. APHA support should call other states' attention to this important patients' rights policy." The APHA noted that The Dignity Act has galvanized major improvement in end of life care in Oregon, including continuing physician education in pain/symptom management, increased referrals to hospice, prescribing of more pain medications, and a more conducive environment for open discussion on end of life.

In similar developments in **Wyoming**, Steven Ertelt of LifeNews.com (opposed to law reform) reported that the House Labor Committee defeated legislation that would have added Wyoming to the 42 states that oppose physician-assisted dying. The Wyoming Medical Association which deviates from the position of the American Medical Association's oppositional stance stated that they were opposed to the proposed 20 year prison term which would apply to doctors charged with assisting patient deaths. They also asked that a section of the bill be removed that would ban them from prescribing medication with intention of assisting patients to die.

**Reference:** euthanewsia mailing list 8 Jan 2009

### **High media exposure in SA**

The issue of voluntary euthanasia law reform generally gains high media exposure, with SAVES' president, Frances Coombe in particular being called upon for many radio interviews. In addition, the issue seems to be gaining greater overall momentum, with the last few weeks seeing extraordinary media coverage. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> *The Advertiser* ran several articles, including a large front page article with accompanying photograph entitled 'Final Choice' which detailed well-known SA arts entrepreneur and adventurer, Dr H R (Kym) Bonython's support for voluntary euthanasia law reform. The 'Talk'

section of the same edition published an interview with him where he stated:  
*'To the members of Parliament who must decide on the voluntary euthanasia legislation before them, I say to you that it is time for compassion.'*

Dr Bonython's position has been hardened on the need for reform, and he stated:  
*'Some good friends of mine have died lingering and painful deaths, and I know, that given the chance, they would have sought to have the right of more control at the end of their lives.'*

On February 1<sup>st</sup> in *Adelaide Now*, the online edition of the Sunday Mail, an article by Lainie Anderson, entitled 'Giving my Dad Final Dignity', chronicled her father's ongoing battle with prostate cancer that she had revealed in an earlier article. Ms Anderson stated:  
*'After another 12 months of chemotherapy, radiation therapy and hormone treatments, Dad's tenacious cancer specialist last week confirmed that the big C remained strong and on the march throughout his 6ft frame'.*

She went on to say: *'Both my Dad and I applaud people like Mr Bonython, who use their profile to speak out for the 80 per cent of South Australians who support euthanasia (as reported in a 2007 Newspoll commissioned by Dying with Dignity Victoria) but whose voices are drowned out by the vocal minority...People who don't support voluntary euthanasia are free to die in a manner of their own choosing. They should grant that right to the rest of us, and particularly people facing the same fate as my darling Dad'.*

As Ms Anderson argued, and as the majority of the community would agree *'How can he not want to control that fate?'*

**Advance Health Directives**

**If you have not already completed an Advance Directive please do so to ensure that your end-of-life wishes are respected.**

**You can choose from the:**

**Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care Act 1995, forms available for downloading from [www.dh.sa.gov.au/consent](http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/consent) and from the Office of the Public Advocate.**

**OR**

**Guardianship and Administration Act 1993. There is a link to the Office of the Public Advocate from the above website for completing an *Enduring Power of Guardianship* under this Act.**

**Either directive form can also be obtained via (08) 8269 7575 (freecall on 1800 066 969) country free call on 1800 066 969, or contact the Palliative Care Council of SA on (08) 8291 4137.**

**World Federation Conference Paris 2008**

Libby Drake, a member of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies sends the following report of the 2008 Conference in Paris.

*'On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October I boarded the Eurostar in London and headed to Paris for the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies. Twenty-one countries were represented and I attended my seventh conference as the delegate for South Australia. At the first Delegates Meeting, held on day one, Dr Rodney Syme, Vice President of Dying with Dignity Victoria, was presented as a nominee for the World Federation (WF) board. I am very happy to say that he was subsequently elected and so Australia is*

once again represented. Juan Mendoza-Vega, a retired neuro-surgeon from Colombia, took over the reins as President.

“Towards a global recognition of our final freedom” was the theme of the main conference. Headsets and simultaneous translation, provided by a team of two excellent translators, enabled a variety of speakers. The first session focussed on the current situation in France and speakers included former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius. In the second session speakers discussed the realities in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxemburg. The third session involved a variety of speakers including Dr (med) Gustavo Alfonso Quintana from Colombia and Lesley Martin from New Zealand.

During the second delegates meeting a motion was passed to review the structure of the World Federation. The aim of the project is to see whether the World Federation can be structured or run differently and thereby increase its effectiveness - both for member societies and as a world body. This project will run for approximately six months and is being led by Rob Jonquiere from the Netherlands. Rob has been involved with voluntary euthanasia in the Netherlands and with the World Federation for many years. He will be consulting all member societies and asking for ideas and opinions. This project means that there may be some changes on the horizon for the World Federation.

On Sunday morning a rally was held at the Trocadero, a square overlooking the Eiffel Tower. This was promoted as a first international day. It was attended by many French members and supporters as well as a large contingent of international delegates.

This event was accompanied by a press conference and gained a lot of media attention. Sadly the event was all in French and international delegates were not included.

Prof Peggy Battin, an ethicist, presented her research into the types of people who go through with voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide, based heavily on data from the Netherlands and Oregon. Her research included the arguments against right-to-die and the statistical evidence disproving these claims. There were also first hand accounts from doctors including Australia's Rodney Syme. Rodney spoke of his experiences and specific cases - which he has covered in more detail in his excellent book “A Good Death”.

Of course the other highlight of the conference was catching up with friends from around the world. One such occasion was the conference dinner, arranged by the outgoing President, Jacqueline Herremans, from Belgium. The location was a building belonging to the Belgian embassy. Tables were arranged in a magnificent, ornate room with feature mirrors from the floor to ceiling. A beautiful minstrel's gallery ran half the length of the room and a stage at one end was used for presentations. After the business and presentations of the days the evenings were an excellent opportunity to spend time with good friends enjoying good food and good wine. After all – we in the right-to-die movement like to get as much as possible out of life.

### **Membership renewal**

Please note that only members whose membership is due for renewal at the end of February 2009 will find a reminder enclosed with this issue of the VE Bulletin.

**South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Incorporated**

Statement of Receipts & Payments for Period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Opening balance 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007** **\$ 8,343.78**

**Receipts**

Donations Received	\$ 6,926.10	
Interest Received	\$ 825.38	
Sundry Income	\$ 940.20	
Member Subscriptions	\$11,190.00	
Bequests	\$ 5,500.00	<b><u>\$ 25,381.68</u></b>
		<b><u>\$ 33,725.46</u></b>

**Payments**

Advertising	\$ 870.00	
Bulletin Postage	\$ 622.24	
Bulletin Print	\$ 3,228.80	
Equipment & Asset Purchases	\$ 1,598.90	
Equipment Hire	\$ 440.00	
Gifts to Speakers	\$ 161.00	
Income Tax	\$ 405.00	
Insurance	\$ 1,776.83	
Internet Expenses	\$ 1,356.21	
Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$ 112.20	
Parking	\$ 147.00	
Photocopying	\$ 30.80	
Postage	\$ 868.55	
Printing & Stationery	\$ 3,230.56	
Purchases – Promotional Items	\$ 60.34	
Rent	\$ 934.50	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 198.00	
Subscriptions	\$ 405.51	
Transfer to Cash Management Account	\$10,000.00	
Telephone	\$ 560.00	<b><u>\$ 27,006.44</u></b>

**Closing Balance 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2008** **\$ 6,719.02**

**CBA Cash Management Trust 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007**    Opening balance **\$ 20,604.03**

Transfer from working Account **\$ 10,000.00**

Interest Received **\$ 1,676.41**

**\$ 11,676.41**

**Closing Balance 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008** **\$ 32,280.44**

**Arthur Cys Bequest Term Deposit**

Opening Balance - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and closing balance 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008 **\$15,000.00**

**Total funds** **\$53,999.46**

# 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 April 19<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Guest Speaker will be **Dr Elizabeth (Libby) Wilson** of Britain's 'Friends At The End' (FATE) who will speak on the topic

**“ ‘FATE’- Facilitating Choices with Particular Reference to Dignitas”**

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

*Business will include the president's and treasurer's reports and election of office bearers and other committee members for a period of one year. Written nominations for official positions, signed by nominating and nominated persons must be received by **Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009***

**Bring your friends. All welcome.**

**Other public meeting dates for 2009 are Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

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## **South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc. (SAVES)**

**Annual Membership Fees:** Single \$ 20.00 (concession \$ 10.00) Double \$ 25.00 (concession \$ 14.00)

Life Membership: Single \$ 170.00, Double \$ 280.00

**Annual Fees fall due at the end of February.** Payment for two years or more reduces handling and costs.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other . . . . . Date . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . . Postcode . . . . .

<u>Office use</u>	
Database	Treasurer
Changes	Letter

Email address if you want to be advised of SAVES activities . . . . .

Date of birth (optional) . . . . . **Membership fees for ..... years \$-----**

Make cheque or money order payable to SAVES and send to:

**SAVES Membership Officer, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071** **Donation \$-----**

Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (please quote name and type of payment) to: **TOTAL \$-----**

**Commonwealth Bank BSB 065 129 account number 00901742**

**Please send this membership form to the above address when paying by electronic means, to ensure proper identification of your membership.**

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 judgement and conscience of the doctor.

**SAVES IS NOT ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES**

## 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 judgment and conscience of the doctor.**



### Committee:

President  
Vice Presidents

Frances Coombe  
Julia Anaf  
Mary Gallnor

Hon. Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
Administrative Secretary  
Minutes Secretary

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Hamish Claxton  
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Emeritus Professor Graham Nerlich

Telephone

**8379 3421**(prefixes: interstate 08, international +61 8)

Internet

**[www.saves.asn.au](http://www.saves.asn.au)**

***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**