

Voluntary Euthanasia is illegal in South Australia

It is not legal:

- ◆ for a doctor to prescribe, supply or administer a drug with the *intention* of causing death.

It is legal:

- ◆ to withhold or withdraw life sustaining treatment that is medically futile.
- ◆ for a doctor to provide sufficient medication to a terminally ill person with the *intention* of relieving symptoms even if this shortens the life of the person.

In practice:

- ◆ Medication may not be sufficient to alleviate symptoms and only a slow, inevitable death brings relief.

Public opinion in South Australia:

- ◆ 81% of South Australians believe that voluntary euthanasia should be legal if requested by a hopelessly ill person with unrelievable suffering and no hope of recovery (Newspoll Survey, 2007).

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES)

- ◆ Encourages informed public discussion of voluntary euthanasia.
- ◆ Interacts with the medical profession to examine the medical implications of legalising voluntary euthanasia.
- ◆ Formulates specific proposals to legalise voluntary euthanasia and seeks their introduction through parliament.
- ◆ Provides information to parliamentarians, government and political bodies, medical, legal and educational institutions, libraries, students, interested groups and individuals.
- ◆ Promotes the use of Advanced Directives for health care.
- ◆ Publishes resource material on voluntary euthanasia and keeps members informed of events in the voluntary euthanasia movement.
- ◆ SAVES cannot provide assistance in dying.

Voluntary Euthanasia in South Australia



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Voluntary Euthanasia Society
(SAVES)

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Primary aim:

To have the law in South Australia changed so that, subject to appropriate safeguards, it is legal:

- ◆ for a medical practitioner who has received a request from a patient for an assisted death to comply with that request provided that medical assessment indicates that there is no reasonable prospect of remission and no treatment available which is acceptable to the patient and
- ◆ for a medical practitioner to carry out the directions of a patient which have been previously expressed in properly attested form that, in the event of the patient becoming unable to give informed consent and medical assessment indicating that there is no reasonable prospect of remission, the patient's life may be brought to a peaceful end.

Where is Voluntary Euthanasia Legal?

Voluntary euthanasia or physician assisted dying are permitted under carefully prescribed circumstances in:

- ◆ Oregon (USA)
- ◆ Washington (USA)
- ◆ Switzerland
- ◆ The Netherlands
- ◆ Belgium

Voluntary euthanasia was made legal in the Northern Territory of Australia in 1995. The law allowing this was overturned by Federal Parliament in 1997.

What can *you* do to change the law?

Tell your State Member of Parliament how you feel

Parliamentarians make the law. The only way the law can be changed is if the Members of Parliament change it. Tell your State Member your view by writing, emailing or phoning. For help with this contact SAVES at 8379 3421 or visit www.saves.asn.au/resources/letters.php

Join SAVES

Even if you are unable to participate actively in the work of the Society your membership will increase the strength of our representation to have the law changed to give you the right to choose the legal option of a medically supervised and peaceful death at the time of your choice.

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