



# NT Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc

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Patron: Mr Marshall Perron  
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## TASMANIA

On 26 September, the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2013* was tabled in the Tasmanian House of Assembly. It was done jointly by the Premier Lara Giddings and the Leader of the Greens Nick McKim as a Private Members bill. The debate is expected to occur on 15 October.

Marshall Perron and Margaret Sing, President of Dying with Dignity Tasmania, were involved in the media conference after the tabling and have done a number of interviews.

Following the tabling, the Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he does not support legalising voluntary euthanasia and would prefer to maintain the status quo. But he does not believe the Federal Government could overturn the proposed Tasmanian law as it did with the Northern Territory's *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act*.

Tim Greenaway speaking for the Australian Medical Association said people, not politicians, should decide. "This is such an important area, such an emotional area, such a divisive area, that we ought to involve the whole of the Tasmanian community by referendum."

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The campaign for the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia continued with a rally held on 11 September on the steps of Parliament House in support of the *Ending Life with dignity Bill 2013*.

SAVES (South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society) has now posted two new videos on YouTube. *Even the best palliative care can't always help* and *The fiction of so-called assisted dying slippery slopes* were produced by Neil Francis, Past President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies and former CEO of YourLastRight.com.

## **NTNews.com.au reported 27 September 2013**

Nitschke says over-50s should be able to end it

By CLAYTON BENNETT

EUTHANASIA advocate Philip Nitschke says anyone over the age of 50 should be able to take their life.

"My position has shifted and I believe anyone over a certain age who is of sound mind should have access to the best means of being able to end their lives," Dr Nitschke said in Darwin last night. But he denied that he was condoning suicide.

"I hope people will have a read of the book and see why I think this makes sense and then they can reject the arguments but I think a healthier society is where everyone has this option," he said.

The former Territorian was at Darwin's NT Library to launch his new autobiography *Damned If I Do*.

## **The Australian newspaper reported 4 October 2013**

Euthanasia campaigner Philip Nitschke laments drug site shutdown

RIGHT-to-die campaigner Philip Nitschke says the shutdown of black market website Silk Road will have a devastating impact on people who use it to obtain euthanasia drugs.

US authorities have busted the online bazaar for drugs, hitmen, hacker tools and more, arresting the suspected mastermind Ross William Ulbricht, also known as 'Dread Pirate Roberts', in San Francisco.

Dr Nitschke, the head of Exit International who has campaigned on euthanasia issues for more than a decade, said a lot of people used the market place to source reliable quantities of the premier end-of-life drug Nembutal.

"Our elderly members appreciated the comfort that came from knowing that their transactions were private," he said, adding that he was aware of at least 20 people who bought Nembutal through the site.

Prosecutors claim that Silk Road has been used by thousands of drug dealers to distribute hundreds of kilos of illegal wares to more than 100,000 buyers and to launder hundreds of millions of dollars in ill-gotten profits.

To accomplish this, Silk Road used a Tor computer network designed to make it almost impossible to locate computers used to host or access websites.

It also added a Bitcoin ‘tumbler’ to the payment system to foil efforts to trace digital currency back to buyers, according to the criminal complaint.

“Although they knew that importing a small amount of Nembutal for possible use at some future date was illegal, many still felt it was a risk worth taking,” Dr Nitschke said. “The removal of the site will now mean that other less secure avenues will be pursued.”

Exit International, an information and advocacy organisation for assisted suicide, publishes the addresses of several other alternative sources for Nembutal - mostly chemical manufacturing companies in China.

“The problem with buying like this is that it is not anonymous and people run the risk of the drug being intercepted and getting a visit from the police,” Dr Nitschke said, pointing to an 80-year-old woman who suffered this fate as recently as yesterday.

### **The Globe and Mail in Canada published this report 25 September 2013**

Why this top doctor's dying wish is for Canada to accept physician-assisted suicide

By Sandra Martin

Eight days before he died of a brain tumour, Dr. Donald Low summoned his waning strength to make a public plea for a change in the law prohibiting assisted suicide. “He wanted to say something public about the struggle he went through to have an assisted death, preferably with the types of barbiturates that are available in the countries that allow it,” his widow Maureen Taylor said in an interview.

Dr. Low, the infectious disease expert who became the calming voice and public medical face during the SARS crisis a decade ago, “believed in assisted suicide and if it had been legal, he would have had no problem writing those kind of prescriptions for people who were terminally ill and of sound mind,” Ms. Taylor said.

In June, 2012, the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that the Criminal Code prohibition against assisted suicide is discriminatory. That decision is being appealed by the federal government.

Meanwhile, Quebec became the first jurisdiction in Canada to table right-to-die legislation last June. It has not yet become law.

## **World Federation of Right to Die Societies Conference**

Registration for the 20<sup>th</sup> World Federation Conference, hosted by Final Exit Network USA , to be held in Chicago 17 to 21 September 2014, is now open.

### Tentative Program

- Solutions for the elderly seeking a peaceful death
- New Zealand's proposal for an advance directive permitting voluntary euthanasia
- New organisation in Hong Kong – will that lead to progress in China?
- Japan: an aged society with no option for refusing treatment
- After the court decision: what's happening in Colombia?
- Canada: a wide variety of bold approaches
- NuTech: progress and dilemmas
- Why Switzerland has 5 aid in dying organisations, including 3 that work with foreigners
- The Netherlands: the most progressive country
- Doctors and how they want to die
- Future of the World Federation as seen by WF Past Presidents
- Strengthening and expanding our member organisations

## **NTVES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The NTVES AGM was held on 10 August 2013 and the following office bearers were elected unopposed:

<i>President</i>	J Dent
<i>Vice-President</i>	R Harrison
<i>Secretary</i>	E A Mason
<i>Treasurer</i>	S McKerrow
<i>Public Officer</i>	S McKerrow

The next AGM will be on 9 August 2014.

NTVES has a large number of books available for borrowing. Phone 8945 1446 if you would like some thought-provoking reading material.