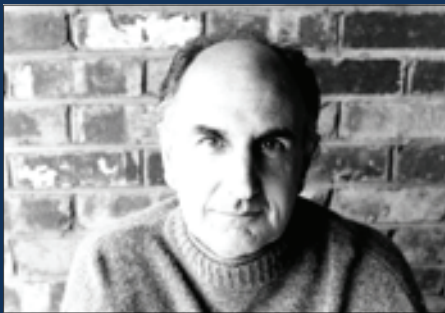


## AGM 2010

As we advised in the previous edition of *Update*, the DWDV 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held commencing 2pm on Sunday 14th November at the Northcote Town hall, 189 High Street, Northcote. The hall can be found on Melways map 30 E9.

As well as dealing with our essential society business and the election of the 2011 Committee, members and their guests will have the pleasure of hearing an address from one of our distinguished Ambassadors for law reform, loved Australian playwright Robert Hewett.

Robert brings an exquisite sense of humanity and deep insights into human motivation and behaviour to all his endeavours.



Much-loved Australian playwright and AGM keynote speaker Robert Hewett.

His personal experiences of the deaths of family members, and his legendary capacity for storytelling mean this will be one of the most riveting AGM keynote addresses ever. *Not to be missed!*

## Archbishop's political manoeuvre

Melbourne Catholic Archbishop Denis Hart has weighed into the Victorian election by widely circulating an "election guide" booklet.

In the booklet, His Grace amongst other things urges Victorian Catholics to support election candidates who oppose law reform which permits the choice of aid-in-dying for the terminally ill.

He has claimed to *The Age* newspaper that his actions were "in no way a political gesture."

With respect, His Grace's claim is at best naïve. Circulating an "election guide" with specific stipulated actions attempting to influence the composition of Victoria's legislature is more than merely a "political gesture," it's Politics Central.

Whatever happened to the separation of church and state?

What His Grace fails to grasp is that most Victorians are not Catholic. And, of those who are, three out of four of them believe that a person suffering intolerably and without relief at the end of life, should have the right to choose a peaceful doctor-assisted death.

Therefore His Grace is not only urging most of his own constituents to act against their own conscience, but is attempting to thwart the wider range of ethical choices that the overwhelming majority of Victorians actually believe should be available, most of whom *aren't* his constituents.

By way of a correcting perspective, I urge His Grace to refocus his efforts on dealing with the serious moral challenge facing his own hierarchy about the sexual abuse of children under his church's pastoral care, rather than attempting to direct that all Victorians, regardless of creed or background, be forced to live their final days in accordance with *his* personal religious world view, rather than their own.

*I extend to Archbishop Denis Hart an open invitation to public debate with an independent moderator, on the issue of aid-in-dying for those suffering the torture of an end-of-life illness.*

Will His Grace rise to the occasion, or simply continue to issue blanket edicts from his cathedral? We'll let you know. *Neil Francis — President and CEO*  
More on the election, see page 5.

## Conference success

In early October, DWDV hosted the 2010 biennial global conference of the *World Federation of Right To Die Societies* at Rydges on Swanston in Carlton.

Delegates from all over the world participated across a number of forum and topic streams.

The conference was judged a great success by all those involved, and we owe deep gratitude to the organising team. More on the conference, see page 3.

## New national body

Also in October, the new national alliance of all State and Territory Dying With Dignity and Voluntary Euthanasia societies have formed into a new, additional national body, *YourLastRight.com*.

This critical initiative facilitates greater cooperation and sharing of intelligence, and resources to combat the repeated and ongoing distortions and misrepresentations put about by opponents of reform. More on the national body, see page 4.

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# From near & far

## Reform: only if you act now

Australia — Senator Bob Brown's *Restoring Territory Rights (Voluntary Euthanasia Legislation) Bill 2010* is currently under debate.

The purpose of the Bill is to reverse the Kevin Andrews *Act* of 1996 which removed the rights of the Territories to enact legislation, including the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act (1995)* which had already come into force in the NT.

Why Federal Parliament believes the peoples of the Territories (NT, ACT, Norfolk Island) are second-class citizens and too stupid to be left to their own legislative autonomy as the peoples of the States are, is beyond us. (The Feds have no jurisdiction to interfere with such legislation in the States.)

Federal polities are being given a "conscience" vote on Brown's Bill, as though there needs to be "conscience" applied to the autonomy of some Australians but not others.

Nevertheless, opponents of reform are busy sending *thousands* of emails to Federal polities, which will sway their vote.

It is *vital* that you get yourself on to [www.yourlastright.com](http://www.yourlastright.com) and look up your Victorian Senators.

Then *write or call*, them telling them that you want them to support Brown's Bill.

Debate is scheduled for the second and third week of November, so get onto it *right away!*

## And from afar...

### Elderly Canadians want choice

Canada — A recent survey has uncovered overwhelming support for aid-in-dying for terminally ill and other end-of-life patients.

The poll, conducted online by the *Canadian Association of Retired Persons*, reported that 71% believe that aid-in-dying should be legal for these kinds of patients.

### Religious doctors discuss less

UK — A study of 4000 UK doctors found that that non-religious doctors were more likely to have discussed life-shortening measures with patients.

Deeply religious doctors, the study suggests, might not be having frank and open discussions with patients leading to denial of deep-sedation care due to the doctor's religious beliefs.

Australian bioethicist Justin Oakley believes doctors should disclose their stance so patients can decide.

### PCA stays neutral

Australia — The peak professional body *Palliative Care Australia* (PCA) have for some time held a position of neutrality towards aid-in-dying for the terminally ill. They neither support nor oppose, noting that there is a range of opinions amongst their membership.

PCA Chief Executive Officer Yvonne Luxford recently confirmed that following a specific review of its stance on aid-in-dying in October, it is remaining neutral, and will continue to monitor the peer-reviewed literature on the subject.

The state palliative care bodies which are the membership of PCA, however, may hold different views. If you see or hear of a state palliative care body opposing aid-in-dying for those suffering medical and palliative futility, let us know.

The AMA, meanwhile, continues its entrenched opposition to aid-in-dying, despite the fact that more Australian doctors (45%) believe the law should be reformed, than don't (44%).

### Opponents misrepresent...again!

Australia — it never seems to end. Those personally opposed to aid-in-dying choice still misrepresent the experiences of already legal jurisdictions. This time a Victorian politician: Mrs Inga Peulich, Liberal member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region, claimed, with the voice of authority in a conference address, that in Oregon, where their *Death With Dignity Act* has been in force since 1997, "older patients...tapping into expensive care...are encouraged often to bring about their earlier demise."

Professor Barbara Glidewell, recently semi-retired from 34 years service at Oregon Health and Sciences University, has emphatically and decisively rejected Peulich's claim. "It is not true that patients are expected to end their life with medication," said Professor Glidewell.

Nor is there any data to support Peulich's claim. We firmly believe that Australians deserve a significantly higher, *evidence-based* standard of representation.

If *you* hear what you think is a porkie about aid-in-dying, send a "Porkie-watch" email to [ylr@yourlastright.com](mailto:ylr@yourlastright.com).

### Chapple bill defeated

Australia — WA upper house member Robin Chapple's *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2010* was defeated in the WA Parliament last month.

Many politicians spoke against the bill, citing distorted, erroneous or otherwise misrepresentational information about the experience of other jurisdictions which already have aid-in-dying laws.

What occurred was that the WA Premier, Colin Barnett, stated in advance of the debate and vote on the Bill that he expected it to be defeated. This is a scandalous miscarriage of legislative justice in what was *claimed* to be a "conscience vote." The Premier made it abundantly clear what he expected politicians to do, thereby hampering free thought by the WA legislature.

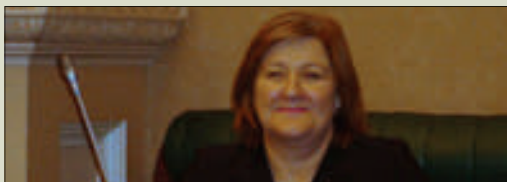
Again, we believe the people of Australia deserve a much higher standard of political conduct than this biased and shameful facade.

Barnett would do well to reflect on the fact that 85% of Australians support aid-in-dying. He and his cronies have thumbed their noses at both the terminally ill, and the overwhelming majority of their constituents.

### Reform ahead

Australia — An aid-in-dying Bill is currently before the South Australian parliament. It is jointly sponsored and co-introduced by lower house Labor member Steph Key, and upper house Greens member, Mark Parnell. A sound bill with strong safeguards, chances of this passing are good. Opponents are, of course, busy putting about misinformation. SAVES, YourLastRight.com (see p4) and other groups are combating the distortions and misrepresentations.

Lara Giddings, Tasmanian Deputy Premier has announced a Bill for her state, and Cate Faehrmann has announced one for the NSW Parliament.



The Hon. Steph Key in her SA Parliamentary seat.

Between 6th and 10th October, DWDV hosted the global biennial conference of the *World Federation of Right To Die Societies* (of which we are a proud member), last hosted in Paris in 2008. Two years in the making, delegates attended from countries all over the world to discuss aid-in-dying at end of life.

Wednesday 6th was a day for Australian delegates, with a number of domestic issues covered. A session was held with representatives from Palliative Care Australia and the AMA to further our mutual understanding and relationships. Everyone appreciated the friendly and candid discussions, and respectful differences.

In the evening, all delegates including those from overseas enjoyed a 'welcome' cocktail party on the rooftop of the hotel. It was an excellent social occasion to make new friends within the movement, and renew old friendships.

On Thursday 7th, the morning session covered a wide range of topics from political campaigns and supporting reform, to a discussion of what 'dying with dignity' means, to the status of aid-in-dying in the USA and Switzerland, to issues around old-age rational suicide. This provided much fuel for animated discussion.

In the afternoon, official World Federation business was conducted.

On Friday 8th, the conference's Public Symposium day was held. Victorian Government member Ms Candy Broad delivered the opening address.

The first of the four sessions was on aid-in-dying law — or the consequences of its absence — and the Hon. Stephen

Charles QC, Professor Margaret Otlowski, and Dr Charles Douglas tackled the field in a masterful way from several different angles.

In the second session on ethics, faith and belief, Dr Robert Young provided a razor-sharp ethics analysis. Then Father Bill Uren SJ explained views from the Catholic tradition...and Dutch and other audience delegates present corrected several misconceptions. Reverend Dr Francis Macnab challenged traditional Christian thinking, which was taken further by co-founder of *Christians Supporting Choice for VE*, Ian Wood who questioned whether Jesus Himself may have been given aid-in-dying.

After lunch, Professor Barbara Glidewell and Mr Neil Francis described the Oregon *Death With Dignity Act* in action; with 12 years of experience and no "slippery slope."

In the fourth and final session, palliative care luminaries Professor Michael Ashby, Professor Jan Bernheim and Dr Roger Hunt discussed aspects of aid-in-dying and palliative care, and the relationship between the two. Professor Bernheim described the synergy between the two in Belgian practice, and the empirical evidence showing no "slippery slope" from enacting law reform.

The diverse and active audience was treated to a day of speakers of the highest calibre, and question times proved vigorous and enlightening.

On Saturday there were more dele-

gates papers, this time on voluntary refusal of food and fluids by currently competent adults, as well as by declaration in advance care directives for Alzheimer's and other dementia individuals.

Psychiatrist Dr Stanley Terman and psychologist Sarah Edelman presented proposals for the assessment of depression in individuals requesting aid-in-dying, in order to improve upon current and problematic clinical practice.

Then, a robust debate on quasi-legal support for aid-in-dying, and to what degree it is appropriate to challenge the law. While no one proposed to clearly flout the law, a range of views at the boundaries was shared, developing a stronger understanding amongst delegates.

In the afternoon, office-bearer elections were held. Ted Goodwin acceded to the Presidency, and Faye Girsh was elected to the Vice-Presidency.

The official program concluded with the Gala dinner at the RACV club on the Saturday evening, with a captivating keynote address delivered by Australian playwright Robert Hewett.

The Sunday social included a winery lunch and visit to Healesville Sanctuary.

The conference was made possible by grants from DWDV, DWDNSW, the Estate of Dr Clem Jones AO, and the World Federation of Right to Die Societies. We are deeply indebted them and to John Hont and his conference subcommittee, and all our wonderful volunteers.

More on page 5.

Below: Conference Chair Neil Francis welcomes delegates to the conference. Victorian Government member Candy Broad delivers the opening address. The conference in full swing.

## Editor sought

DWDV is looking for an editor to prepare and produce this quarterly newsletter, *Update*.

The ideal kind of person would have reasonable grammar and punctuation skills, and be able to edit raw material to fit into allocated space. Ability to work with layout and incorporate images and generally remain consistent with our production values would be well regarded.

While only four times a year, timeliness is important to production.

If you feel that you might be able to contribute or would like more information, call Rowena in the office during business hours on 9877 7677 for a confidential chat.



# YourLastRight.com national alliance launched

On Wednesday 6th October, Mr Neil Francis, Chairman and CEO of *YourLastRight.com*, launched this new national alliance of all State and Territory Dying With Dignity and Voluntary Euthanasia societies. The alliance has Directors from each State and Territory, and all were present at the launch. This is the address delivered by Mr Francis.



Mr Neil Francis, Chairman and CEO of *YourLastRight.com*, launches the alliance.

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

For four decades a majority of the people of our fine nation have believed in the right of a person, suffering intolerably and without relief from a terminal illness, to seek and obtain a peaceful, physician-assisted death according to their own beliefs and values.

For four decades, with the single and brief exception of the Northern Territory, Parliaments across our land have obfuscated, have wrung their hands, have refused to talk let alone act, and have voted down a reform that their peoples so very much want.

Professional healthcare bodies acknowledge that not all end-of-life suffering can be relieved. To expect perfection is unrealistic. What then for those suffering intolerably at end of life?

Opponents for this reform delight in spreading misinformation, innuendo and hyperbole about so-called insufficient safeguards, and “slippery slopes”. But the evidence has been collected, and is now in. Empirical research published in respected journals reports the absence of slippery slopes, and good practice in jurisdictions where aid in dying is legal.

As Dr Steven Pinker, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, said, *‘For [slippery slope] hypotheses to justify restrictive laws, they need empirical support. In one’s imagination, anything can lead to anything else: allowing people to skip church can lead to indolence; letting women drive can lead to sexual licentiousness. In a free society, once*

*cannot empower the government to outlaw any behaviour that offends someone just because the offeree can pull a hypothetical future injury out of the air.’*

Should we be flippant or relaxed about such reform? No! While holding a torch to light the end-of-life dreams of so many Australians, and embracing a wider range of options, we should be cautious. We should be vigilant.

And it can be done. Full community conversation is necessary for all to have a say in this reform.

Assisted dying law in our land lags monumentally behind the will of its people. And for this reason, it is my great pleasure today, to announce the launch of the national alliance of all State and Territory Dying With Dignity and Voluntary Euthanasia societies: a new alliance called *YourLastRight.com*.

This alliance would not be possible without the contributions of so many. We thank the Estate of Dr Clem Jones AO for the very significant funding of our programs.

We thank the advertising agency Reality Group, for the extraordinary strategic development work their creative teams provided. We thank Hootville and KSO IT Consulting for helping guide our communications and online presence. We thank our special advisors and our volunteers for their valuable contribution.

And I personally thank all the State and Territory societies for their foresight, vigour and focus in working together. It is my great honour to serve as Chairman and CEO of our alliance. I pledge to deliver the best of my skills, abilities and passion for this cause.

Make no mistake.

We pledge today to strive in unison and harmony to help achieve what our nation’s citizens want: choice and dignity at end of life. For all. Not just for some.

As Dr Ronald Dworkin, Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford University said, *‘Making someone die in a way that others*

*approve, but the dying person believes a horrifying contradiction of his life, is a devastating, odious form of tyranny.’*

The aspiration of our peoples is for an end to the torture, and end to the tyranny. With responsible law reform, it shall be so. In whatever modest way we can contribute to that reform, we shall.

We will not be silenced. Never muzzled. While the commercials authority CAD has banned our first TV commercial, we are not bowed. We are more determined than ever. Their decision to ban our commercial, which talks about an issue that the whole nation is already discussing, is irrational, and an attack on free speech.

Our banned commercial can be seen at [www>YourLastRight.com](http://www>YourLastRight.com).

Ladies and gentlemen, *YourLastRight.com* is here. In the not-too-distant future, Australians will have aid-in-dying reform of which they can be proud, and in which they can trust.”

**‘For [slippery slope] hypotheses to justify restrictive laws, they need empirical support.’**

**Dr Steven Pinker, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University.**

**The empirical evidence is *against*, not in support of, the ‘slippery slope.’**

Dying With Dignity ambassador and former Senator, Lyn Allison, also delivered a brief address. The meeting then adjourned for a modest celebratory drink.

**Important:** Sign up to the online e-rally calling for reform. It’s vital that you stand up and be counted, or politicians won’t act. Visit [www.yourlastright.com](http://www.yourlastright.com) now.



*YourLastRight.com* Foundation Directors (from left): Front, Margaret Sing (Tas), Alastair Henderson (Qld), Frances Coombe (SA), Judy Dent (NT); Rear, John Todd (Qld), Dr Robert Marr (NSW), Neil Francis and Dr Rodney Syme (Vic), Bill O’Brien (WA).

## World Federation conference (continued...)



Top row: Former Senator Lyn Allison addresses the YourLastRight.com alliance launch, an Australian delegates day session, the conference secretariat hard at work.

Second row: Father Bill Uren SJ shares some Catholic tradition viewpoints...some of which Rev. Dr. Francis Macnab disagrees with, Dr Stanley Terman with his dementia advance care directive My Way cards system, Professor Barbara Glidewell shares the Oregon experience.

Bottom row: Dr Robert Young delivers a razor-sharp philosophical analysis of personal autonomy and end-of-life decision-making, delegates enjoy informal time at lunches, Dr Rodney Syme chairs a session with palliative care experts Professor Michael Ashby, Professor Jan Bernheim, and Dr Roger Hunt.

*'The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action.'*

*Frank Herbert*

*'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'*

*Margaret Mead*

A significant part of the planned launch of the new national alliance *YourLastRight.com* was to be the airing of a TV commercial across the nation.

Executives of the alliance provided a draft of the commercial to the authorising body, Commercials Advice (CAD). CAD gave pre-approval for the ad to be aired, with a recommended caveat on timeslots that we thought was entirely sensible.

On the basis of that advice the alliance approved the ad to be made. On re-enquiring with CAD for the approval, they then advised us that the commercial was denied permission to air.

The reason provided was a section of the CAD code of practice, which states that at no time is suicide a suitable topic for TV commercials. We find this disingenuous, and utterly without context. Comparing a regrettable death under circumstances such as a loss of love, employment, or treatable depression, with a rational choice for aid-in-dying when faced with intolerable and unrelievable suffering from a terminal illness, is inappropriate at best. But CAD would not budge.

It is an attack on free speech that we can talk about aid-in-dying for the terminally ill, including on commercial TV, yet we can't talk about (advertise) that we are talking about it.

We believe that CAD's decision was wrong. Fortunately, the very fact that the ad was banned provided a story for the media, and so the message was broadcast in non-advertising ways.

The voiceover of the commercial says [with images]:

*Australians have a proud history of fighting for our rights.*

[image of the Eureka stockade]

*Like the right to vote.* [Suffragettes]

*The right to a fair working week.* [Labour Day march]

*The right to own land.* [Uluru/native title]

*The right to be treated with respect, regardless of background.* [multicultural crowd]

*Today, we all enjoy the right to live exactly the way we want.*

[couples enjoying the outdoors]

*Yet we still don't have the right to choose how we want to die if we're faced with the torture of a terminal disease.*

[suffering patients in hospital beds]

*Fair go Australia!*

*Speak out for your last right now.* [speaker at microphone]

*Visit YourLastRight.com now, before it's too late.* [logo]

Did we mention suicide? No. Did we talk about human rights? Yes. Form your own view about CAD's decision.



## National tour of empirical evidence

During the World Federation conference, Professor Barbara Glidewell from Oregon and Professor Jan Bernheim from Belgium shared the aid-in-dying experiences of their jurisdictions with professional bodies including those of palliative care, doctors, and nurses. Empirical evidence, rather than innuendo and hyperbole, was provided.

Then, with Professor Glidewell returning to the USA to attend further conferences, Professor Bernheim, and CEO of *YourLastRight.com*, Neil Francis, toured selected capitals to share the message of empirical aid-in-dying evidence.

Professor Bernheim shared the scientific research on Belgium's experience with their aid-in-dying law, showing a significant drop in the practice of hastened dying *without* an explicit current request, and improvements in the practice of palliative care. Neil Francis shared similar information from Oregon.

First stop after the Melbourne World Federation conference was the Bob Hawke Centre for Public Policy in Adelaide, with strong attendance despite rainy Friday evening weather. An alert and curious crowd asked plenty of questions. The media

showed considerable interest, with TV, radio and newspaper interviews to bring the message to the wider community.

The next stop was Hobart, where a hall in Parliament house was packed full for the evening event. There were more TV, radio and newspaper interviews.

Sydney followed, with an afternoon session in the Parliament House theatre filled to overflowing. In addition, several people with personal stories of end-of-life suffering shared their experiences, and there were many thoughtful questions.

In Brisbane, several sessions at Lennox on Queens were well attended. Neil Francis delivered a private address to DWDQ members, and then he and Professor Bernheim delivered addresses to several public audiences. Questions from the audience were plentiful and very thoughtful.

Finally in Perth, Bernheim and Francis again delivered addresses, along with Palliative Care WA Executive Officer Will Hallahan, to an attentive and curious audience.

The national tour was critical to bringing scientific evidence to the debate in order to correct misinformation given by earlier opponent speakers from North America. It was a great success.



Media call in Adelaide: Front, SAVES committee Julia Anaf, Frances Coombe, Anne Hirsch, Mary Gallnor; Rear. The Hon. Steph Key, Neil Francis, The Hon. Mark Parnell, Professor Jan Bernheim.



Professor Jan Bernheim and wife Clara take a moment out of the hectic tour schedule to take in the sights of Hobart and environs.

## Victorian election — have your say

It's time for the voters of Victoria to go to the polls again. The Victorian election will be held on Saturday 27th November.

What can you do that is effective?

Firstly, you can inform and cast your vote for candidates who support aid-in-dying: a choice that the overwhelming majority of the population wants. Once again we are polling key election candidates to help inform your vote. Simply visit the DWDV website at [www.dwdv.org.au](http://www.dwdv.org.au) and follow the link to

Victorian Election Candidates.

Secondly, you can help increase the issue's presence during the election campaign by writing letters to newspapers and calling talkback radio. Ask for reform. Identify yourself as one of the 85% of Australians who want reform. If a candidate's support for or opposition to reform is going to sway your vote, say so!

Thirdly, you can directly help supportive candidates by handing out how-to-vote cards in their electorate. Help the supporter-candidates below, or any other

who is closer to your home and also of your political persuasion. Contact the DWDV office for candidates who need your help.

Election time is a very rare opportunity to make a real difference...don't miss it! It would be a grave mistake to think, "Oh, I'll just leave that to Joe next door." Guess what Joe's thinking? "Oh, I'll just leave it to Mary next door." Then nobody acts. And the opportunity to aid reform passes by. Act *now*.

Page authorised by N. Francis, Melbourne.

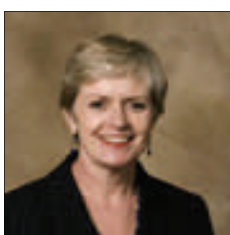
## Pollie watch — supporters



**Colleen Hartland** (*Greens, Western Metropolitan*) is the first politician in the history of Victoria to introduce a physician-assisted dying bill.

While the bill was lost on cynical grounds (the Government blocked its referral to committee for debate and revision), Ms Hartland has continued the call for reform, tabling a motion for referral of the matter to the VLRC. Again, the Legislative Council blocked the motion, yet Ms Hartland continues the fight.

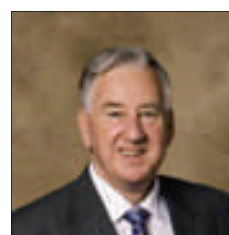
Ms Hartland deserves your support. She was elected by only a couple of hundred votes at the 2006 election, so every vote counts.



**Maxine Morand** (*Labor, Mount Waverley*) is a Cabinet Minister who has spoken of her support for many years. A former

nurse, she has first-hand experience of the kinds of torture patients can suffer at the end of life.

Ms Morand has attended and spoken at DWDV Steve Guest Day rallies in support of reform. She represents the most marginal seat in Victoria, Mount Waverley, where a swing of just 0.3% would unseat her. She also deserves your strong support to ensure she is returned and can continue her support for reform from within the Victorian parliament.

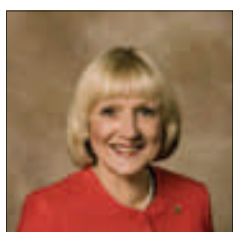


**The Hon. Ken Smith** (*Liberal, Bass*) has been a strong supporter of aid-in-dying law reform. He has spoken at a number of DWDV

Steve Guest Day rallies.

Importantly, Mr Smith took the trouble to visit Oregon for a week in 2008 to help inform his views on aid-in-dying, unlike the gratuitous formation of opinion of some of his Parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House. There he found a sound working model for reform, and has been vocal in calling for a change to the law. Mr Smith has faced strong religious opposition in his electorate and deserves your support.

## Porkie watch — opposers

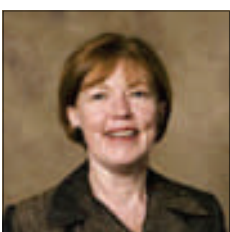


**Jan Kronberg** (*Liberal, Eastern Metropolitan*) told us leading up to the 2006 election that she *supported* aid-in-dying law re-

form. Since being elected, she has strongly opposed reform.

She read into Hansard the most bizarre porkie, equating reform with the 1973 end-of-days polemic movie, *Soylent Green*, in which people are boiled down into biscuits for others to eat.

We take a very dim view of being misinformed and misled by election candidates, and suggest that Mrs Kronberg should be rejected at the polls for this as well as her opposition to reform.

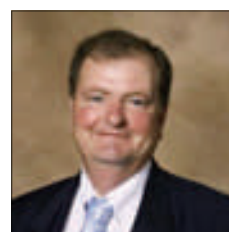


**The Hon. Christine Campbell** (*Labor, Pascoe Vale*) was very active in opposing Hartland's aid-in-dying bill, despite the fact

she's not even in the same House.

She circulated her own porkies, for example claiming proof of a "slippery slope" — that voluntary euthanasia laws lead to increased non-voluntary euthanasia in lawful jurisdictions. She even cited a published study as "proof," that itself concluded there was no slippery slope.

We believe that the Victorian people deserve a much higher, *evidence-based* approach to reform, and that Mrs Campbell falls far short of that standard.



**Peter Kavanagh** (*DLP, Western Victoria*) has been persistent in his statements that an 18 year old with

("only") depression would be at risk from lawful aid-in-dying for the terminally ill. While we respect his personal world view against aid-in-dying for himself, we do not respect repeated misstatements that curry unjustified fear about reform.

Mr Kavanagh does not deserve support for his continual misrepresentations.

Visit [www.dwdv.org.au](http://www.dwdv.org.au) and follow the Victorian Election Candidates link to find out more about election candidates across the state.

## Not a member of DWDV? Join now.

### Membership Application

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Dr / Prof (circle one)

Name: .....

E-mail: .....

Occupation: .....

Current  Previous/Retired

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Phone (H): .....

Phone (W): .....

Date: ..... Signature: .....

■ Mark your membership type:

Annual Membership (inc GST if applicable)

Single ..... \$40

Family ..... \$60

Pensioner / student ..... \$20

Life Membership (inc GST if applicable)

Single ..... \$550

Pensioner\* ..... \$275

\* Paid in two \$137.50 monthly payments.

You can also join up online at [www.dwdv.org.au](http://www.dwdv.org.au).

Donation (optional, GST-free) ..... \$ .....

Total Amount: ..... \$ .....

Please make cheque or money order payable to Dying With Dignity Victoria or complete below if paying by credit card:

MasterCard  VISA  Am-Ex

Card Number: ..... / ..... / .....

Expiry Date: ..... / .....

Cardholder Name: .....  
Name: .....

*Please charge my card the Total Amount shown on this application form.*

Cardholder Signature: .....  
Signature: .....

Post or fax to DWDV: see below for details.  
You can also join online using our website.

## Bequests

Did you know that bequests provide a very significant part of DWDV's operating funds? While they by nature come in at irregular and unexpected intervals, they provide more than half of our income to help fund our important programs for aid-in-dying reform.

If you haven't already, please consider including DWDV in your will. To do so, simply include the following text next time you review your will:

"I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (in words) (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) to DYING WITH DIGNITY VICTORIA INC of 3/9b Salisbury Avenue, Blackburn, Victoria 3130, for its general purposes."

If your solicitor prefers, you can also add these words:

"I DIRECT that the receipt of the Secretary, Treasurer or other proper officer of the Society for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge unto my Executor."

That will help ensure that the Executor has a record of properly discharging their duties when winding up your estate and disbursing assets according to your wishes.

## Workshops

All workshops for 2010 are now booked out and no more are scheduled. We will begin workshops in the new year, most likely in mid to late February.

We will also launch a new kind of workshop next year: one specifically for those recently diagnosed, or with a family history of, Alzheimer's and other dementias. This special workshop will address the additional concerns and complexities of this condition, its usual trajectory, and how to ensure that you have clear and documented wishes for treatment and refusal of treatment at each different stage of the illness.

Register your interest with the office on 9877 7677.

## Season's felicitations

The Committee and staff of DWDV wish you a very restful, relaxing and joyous festive season.

We look forward to seeing you in 2011, and to continuing our hard work for aid-in-dying law reform, and other services, for all Victorians.

Be safe, have fun, and be ready to speak up at any time!



Please pass on your copy of Update to those of your acquaintances who may be interested.

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Other committee: Mr John Hont, Ms Judith Hoy, Dr Max Sutherland ■ Special advisor: Ms Lyn Allison