

# The Right to Life Australia Inc

## DOCTOR ASSISTED SUICIDE and EUTHANASIA BEING PROPOSED FOR TASMANIA

This month – August 2020 a Bill will be introduced into the Tasmanian Parliament - if passed it will legalise Doctor Assisted Suicide and euthanasia.

### THIS MEANS THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PERMITTED UNDER THE TASMANIAN BILL:

A) A person does not have to be terminally ill to be eligible.

**Death does not need to be immanent.**

B) A person only needs to reside in Tasmania for 12 months to be eligible

C) The approval to die process can be as short as four days!

D) No need for a doctor who specialises in the patient's condition to sign off on the approval.

E) Doctors are able to initiate a conversation about euthanasia with patients.

### THE PROBLEMS WITH EUTHANASIA ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1) THE PROHIBITION ON KILLING IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR LAW AND SOCIETY.

Put simply, we do not kill each other and we help people not to commit suicide. Every human life is precious. Yet Mike Gaffney (IND) plans to introduce a bill which will allow government approved suicide for the sick and infirm. Is he trying to save healthcare dollars? Lifeline and Beyond Blue are committed to help people not to commit suicide. (Lifeline Appeal Brochure 2017 advised that in Australia every three hours a person dies by suicide.)

2) OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE SHOWS - DOCTOR ASSISTED SUICIDE CHANGES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR DOCTOR TO ONE OF FEAR AND MISTRUST.

Doctors take an oath to "Do no harm." Doctor Assisted Suicide means under certain circumstances doctors can legally kill another person or they can prescribe the drugs for the patient to kill themselves. In overseas countries where Doctor Assisted Suicide has become law - the relationship between the doctor and patient has changed to one of fear and mistrust. For example, Professor W Toffler noting his experience during 40 years as a doctor in Oregon USA. (where Doctor Assisted Suicide was introduced 20 years ago)

3) WHEN DOCTOR PRESCRIBED SUICIDE IS LEGALISED THE NUMBERS AND CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE BEING KILLED INCREASES!

In Belgium the numbers of people being killed increased from 235 cases in 2003 to 2,012 cases in 2015. In Holland the numbers have risen from 2,331 in 2008 to 5,516 in 2015 and in Oregon USA the numbers increased by 825% in 17 years. Also, in Holland the categories have broadened to include people with mental illness and dementia.

4) THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO EXPAND BETTER PATIENT CARE (PALLIATIVE CARE) NOT PATIENT KILLING.

The respected physician and Australian author Dr Karen Hitchcock writes, "I have cared for hundreds of dying patients. No one has ever died screaming or begging for me to kill them. Patients have told me they want to die. My response to this is "Tell me why? "It is rarely because of pain, but it is often because of worthlessness, meaningless or being a burden."

We need better patient care in our hospitals and nursing homes.

5) IN SEPT. 2015 THE BRITISH, SCOTTISH AND WELSH PARLIAMENTS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST LEGALISING ASSISTED SUICIDE. WHY? THEY THOUGHT IT TOO DANGEROUS!

They saw the increasing numbers of deaths for an increasing number of reasons – in places like Holland, Belgium and the USA state of Oregon, where it has been allowed for some time – even for mental illness and/or dementia.

Recent official figures (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Hague) from Holland in 2015 show 431 people had their lives ended without request.

6) PEOPLE WHO ARE ELDERLY, VULNERABLE, VERY SICK OR DEPRESSED MAY FEEL COERCED OR PRESSURED TO END THEIR LIFE.

In Sept. 2015 a British Parliamentarian, Mr Frank Field MP (Birkenhead, labour, Assisted Suicide (No 2) Bill, House of Commons 11/9/15) " We seem to think this country is populated exclusively by husbands who love their wives, and wives who love their husbands, and grannies, uncles and aunties who all gather around to do the right thing... I know perfectly well that in certain circumstances some individuals would have no hesitation in trying to persuade a person that the decent thing to do is to end their life – and especially where money is involved."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- A) Please make an appointment to visit your Legislative Council Member of Parliament by yourself or with family/friend living in the same electorate. If you are unable to do so, please ring or write to your MP. The bill will start being debated in the Legislative Council first. It will then move to the House of Assembly. Please contact your 5 MPs in the House of Assembly (see contact details on our Action Alert) You are welcome to contact Michael Fewster on 0403946719 if you need further assistance.