

The South Australian Experience

**Frances Coombe
President SAVES**

- **VE Bills presented 15 times since 1995**
- **VE Bills continually under debate from 1995 - 2013**
- **1st bill thrown out without debate 13-31**
- **4 bills failed at a vote - most lapsed due to Parliamentary process**

Death with Dignity 2016 Bill

- **Introduced by Dr Duncan McFetridge LIB & Hon Steph Key ALP**
- **given government debate time**
- **support from both leaders**
- **fearmongering & falsehoods repeated, creating doubt**
- **tied vote 23-23**
- **Speaker Hon M Atkinson deciding vote**

Is there a 'right' Bill?

- **A VE Bill will not go through unamended**
- **Even a narrow Bill will be pulled back**
- **The MP presenting needs:**
 - **experience**
 - **credibility**
 - **determination**

Why the snail pace?

- **VE Bills are Private Members' Bills**
- **Progress is very slow due to the short time allotted**
- **Delaying tactics**
- **MPS most often won't engage with the Bill**

Conscience vote reality check

- **VE is a conscience vote**
- **No need to consider consciences of constituents**
- **No prior standard consultation process**
- **MPS have to get their own information**
- **Implies that the issue doesn't need rational examination**

Essentials for Success

- **Persistence**
- **Broad expertise**
- **Respectful dialogue with MPs**
- **Know & engage in the parliamentary process**

Your vital role as constituents

- **MPs do listen to you**
- **Essential to communicate your support**
- **Is your MP supportive, opposed or non-committal?**
- **Make your MP accountable**

Be seen & heard

- **Mobilise public support**
- **Keep the issue alive**
 - **Information stalls**
 - **Guest speakers**
 - **Library displays**
 - **Media**
 - **Specialist support groups**

Specialist advocacy groups

- **Doctors for Voluntary Euthanasia Choice**
- **SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying**
- **Syndicated Australian VE Youth Advocates**
- **Christians Supporting Choice for VE**
- **Lawyers for Death with Dignity**
- **My Body - My Choice VE** disability advocacy



Your short email, letter or phone call will help

Tell your State Member of Parliament that you want
voluntary euthanasia legalised... say why.

You can phone SAVES to check the details of your MP – **0421 305 684**

SAVES is staffed entirely by volunteers – please help by

- Asking your family, friends and colleagues to contact their MP
- Joining SAVES
- Making a donation – the campaign does have costs

SAVES South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society
PO Box 2151, Kent Town 5071 Web www.saves.asn.au Ph 0421 305 684

The Freedom to Choose

SAVES



It's Time for a New Law

Patients' Rights

- freedom to choose when to end their suffering
- to have medical supervision for a peaceful death
- to have safeguards against pressure from others

Doctors' Rights

- no criminal or civil charges when assisting a patient
- the choice to assist, or refuse a request

Parliament Decides

Only our State Members of Parliament can change the law

Tell your local members — by phone, letter or email —
that you want voluntary euthanasia legalised

Committed people in all Australian States and Territories are
working to change the law, to allow this basic Human Right

Add your voice to the call

SAVES

*It's time for compassion ...
Legalise Voluntary Euthanasia
Tell your State Member of Parliament*

SAVES

MY COUNTRY'S LAWS DECREE:

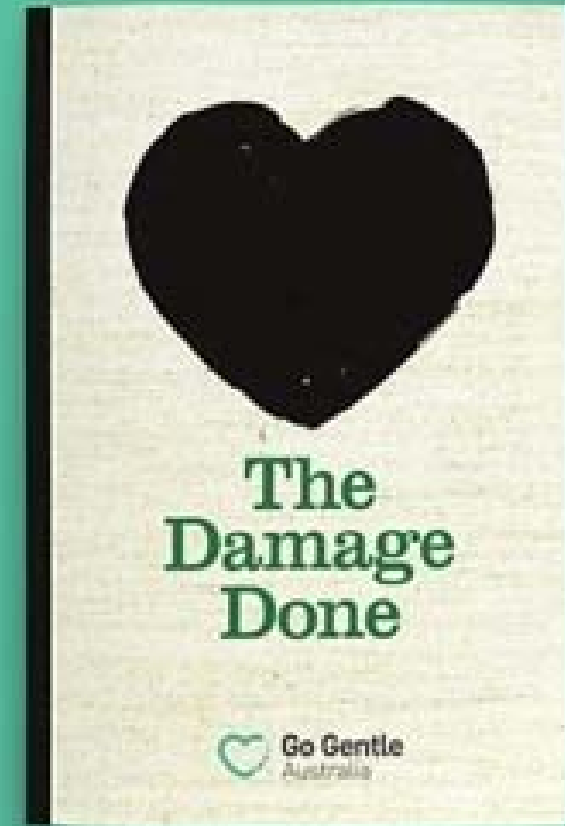
“DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS FOR ME.”

As she was dying of cancer last year, 90 year-old South Australian Eileen Dawe kept a diary. Despite her clearly-stated wish to die she was forced to endure 17 painful weeks until the disease finally took her. Hoping to hasten nature's course she began to starve herself to death. In her diary she wrote "My country's laws decree "Death by a thousand cuts for me".

How can our laws allow such a thing? Polls consistently show 75% of Australians support a law that would have helped Eileen and others like her to die humanely. So why has no Australian parliament in the last 20 years responded to the public will?

The Damage Done contains 72 testimonies of suffering as Eileen suffered: evidence of the tragic and inhumane consequences which occur because of the absence of an assisted dying law.

Visit GoGentleAustralia.org.au to join the campaign and download your free ebook.



SAVES

Where is the compassion & common sense?

- **Blow own head off with shotgun** LEGAL
- **Asphyxiate with head inside plastic bag** LEGAL
- **Ingest weedkiller** LEGAL
- **Slam car into a tree at speed** LEGAL
- **Jump off a cliff** LEGAL
- **Refuse to eat, die of starvation** LEGAL
- **Refuse to drink, die of dehydration** LEGAL
- **Extreme doses of pain relief by a doctor** LEGAL
- **Have treatment with-held** LEGAL
- **Have treatment withdrawn** LEGAL
- **Voluntary euthanasia** ILLEGAL

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