

Dear member

Today I received some good news from Kirsty Easdale who has been liaising between barristers Greg Barnes and John B. Lawrence SC on behalf of DWDACT:

I heard from Greg Barnes today. Both barristers are willing to accept the brief. I will be able to prepare a brief early next week. I will send through some draft observations for your review prior to them being sent to the barristers.

*Kirsty Easdale | Senior Lawyer
Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers*

This has occurred as a result of my approaching The ACT Law Society for pro bono support to make a claim in the High Court that the Euthanasia Laws Act is law imposing religious observances. The Australian constitution states that *the Commonwealth may not make law imposing religious observances*.

Recently I was approached by Thomas Faunce of the ANU Law College to speak to second year medical students at the ANU. When I approached Kirsty with the idea that the Constitution might be a way forward I had in my mind the thought that our local politicians had been claiming that the only way forward on this issue was to lobby the federal politicians. The expectation was that we, a small organization of around 100 members would have the power and the standing to change the minds of politicians who imposed law reinforcing the law that was already cruel in the ACT. I was preparing a letter campaign to do that but I thought that I would have a look at the Constitution to see if there was anything there that could help us to avoid having to go through a brutal campaign where politicians would be further able to display their arrogance to us. In reading the Constitution closely I found the statement that I have quoted above.

To return to the matter of the lecture, I agreed to give it and I thought I would use the opportunity to prove that the Federal and local laws do impose religious observances. Before I went to see Kirsty I asked Ian Wood who heads Christians4VE to provide me with some material that put the religious arguments for leaving the law as it is. I gave that to Kirsty and I used it to help build an argument in my lecture that I gave to the students that the law does impose religious observance. If you are interested in getting the PowerPoint material I used for that please reply to this Bulletin.

Getting this legal advice will not come cheap. At this stage I have a quote from Kirsty of roughly \$5000 so I urge those of you who have not renewed your membership to renew. If any of you wish to support this attempt to change the law through a High Court challenge I urge you to please give us a donation.

Our Annual Meeting in March re-elected me as President, Judith Barnes as Secretary, Tony Whelan as Treasurer, and Robert Altamore, Carol Carlyon, Jack White, Joan Post as committee members.

One of our secretaries, Clive Monty died recently. I attended the very joyful celebration of his life at the Hellenic Club on Monday this week. Clive was a very gentle man who helped me to give my first public talk in Adelaide to dying with dignity and VE groups around Australia. I miss him and I know that he is being missed by many people in the ACT community.

Jeanne Arthur, President
Dying with Dignity ACT
18 May 2017



Membership of Dying With Dignity ACT

Your name: Year of birth:

If couple membership, please provide spouse details below

Spouse name: Year of birth:

Postal address: Suburb & postcode:

Phone/Mobile: Email:

If you provided an email address above, we will send bulletins by email rather than postal mail.

Membership Benefits

- Support lobbying for change of Commonwealth & ACT legislation.
- Receive newsletters with details of developments in Australia and overseas.
- Website dealing with end of life issues and news at www.dwdact.org.au.
- Links to national and international websites.
- Link to ACT Advanced Care Plan.
- Informative guest speakers at general meetings.

Membership Rates 2017

Single Annual	\$35	Couple Annual	\$60
Single Annual (pension concession)	\$25	Couple Annual (pension concession)	\$45
Single Life Member	\$400	Couple Life Member	\$700
Single Life Member (pension concession)	\$300	Couple Life Member (pension concession)	\$500

Payment details

I am paying by (please place an X by the payment method you are using):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank transfer <i>(please include your name as a reference so we can identify your payment)</i>
--------------------------	---

Bank: Beyond Bank Australia BSB: 805-022
 Account Name: Dying With Dignity ACT Account Number: 03415176

OR

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque / Money Order <i>(to Dying With Dignity ACT)</i>	OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash
--------------------------	--	-----------	--------------------------	-------------

I am paying the following amount(s):

Membership fee:	\$
Donation to Law Reform & allied campaigns:	\$
Total Payment Amount:	\$
Payment date (if by bank transfer):	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please send completed form to the DWDACT Treasurer, by email to treasurer@dwdact.org.au **or** by post to PO Box 55 Waramanga 2611. Or simply email us with your details.