

Dying with Dignity ACT Inc.

Everyone deserves a peaceful death

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Bulletin No. 20

February 2019

Members, meeting dates for this year are as below. Please put them in your diary keeping in mind that the 24th of October may be subject to change if our guest speaker cannot make that date. Notices will be sent in advance of the meetings.

Annual General Meeting 4 April, Public Meeting 24 October

Also, for your information, Committee Meetings will be on 24 January, 7 March, 11 April, 23 May, 4 July, 22 August, 9 October, 28 November

The committee has set itself three goals for this year 1) to raise the profile of the concept of an Elective Death 2) to support any VE candidate in the Federal election 3) to raise more money for the purposes of campaigning.

I have already been able to address the first goal this year through an invitation from The Canadian Atheist to write an article for them about the Elective Death model. The article will be published on March 10. I will ensure that it's also published on our website after that date.

For our second goal we have made enquiries about the VE Party's plans and discovered that it has no intention of running a candidate in the ACT because the likely outcome is highly predictable i.e. that voters will vote for the major parties. The Party's expectation is that candidates who want to run for the VE Party will have to fund and run their own campaigns.

We now know that the only party that has a pro euthanasia policy and has a chance of winning in the ACT is the Greens. There are now three seats in the ACT. The new electoral boundaries may be helpful to the Greens in winning a seat in the Lower House. From the vote in the Senate of the Restoring Territory Rights Bill we now know that a vote for the Greens is a vote for euthanasia and any bill related to it such as Territory rights. They have demonstrated that all Greens will vote as a party for any bill related to euthanasia. They are unambiguously in favour. They don't divide their numbers with conscience or free votes.

In the following table please note the candidates who have already been identified as standing for the House of Representatives and the Senate in the election this year. I have taken this information from Wikipedia. You can keep yourself up to date with electoral information by going to the following address:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candidates_of_the_2019_Australian_federal_election

House of Representatives - Australian Capital Territory

Sitting members are listed in bold text.

Electorate	Labor candidate	Liberal candidate	Greens candidate	Other candidates
Bean	David Smith	Ed Cocks	Johnathan Davis	Therese Faulkner (Prog)
Canberra	Alicia Payne	Mina Zaki	Tim Hollo	
Fenner	Andrew Leigh	Leanne Castley	Andrew Braddock	Travis Ecclestone (Prog)

Senate - Australian Capital Territory

Labor candidates

1 Katy Gallagher

Liberal candidates

1. **Zed Seselja**

Greens candidates

1. Penny Kyburz

2. Emma Davidson

Members who are not comfortable with the idea of voting for the Greens should keep their eyes open for Liberal Democrat and Reason candidates who also have pro-euthanasia policies. In coming Bulletins I will continue to update members about candidates.

Members who have not yet renewed their annual membership will be receiving a reminder from our treasurer Tony Whelan soon. Please renew, as a good number of members helps the committee to convince our politicians that a good death is something they should strive to provide us with. As yet the ACT's End of Life Choices Committee has not presented its report to the Assembly so we need to keep the pressure on our politicians to show them that we are serious about reforming the law.

To help us to achieve our third goal if you can afford it please make a donation to our campaign fund so that we can transfer some more money to Sean Davison's legal defence in South Africa. Donations raised so far this year have raised an additional \$350.00 over the \$1000.00 we sent last year. Your donations will also help us to campaign here in the ACT during the Federal election.

Once again I want to remind you that the role of secretary is now vacant. So please think about whether you have some time to commit to this role. It does require a computer and a telephone. We are also keen to invite other members to join the committee. Interested members can ring me on DWD's phone 51040920 (only those callers who leave a message on the answering machine indicating the reason for their call will be responded to) or email me at president@dwdact.org.au

We are in the process of updating the website. We have taken inspiration for the image on the home page from the DWDNSW website. It has a photograph of a woman with a tag line "Allow me to die peacefully. Support Annie's right to choose". We thought we would use the same idea but have a number of smiling people in the photograph with our tag line which is "Everyone deserves a peaceful death".

We want to get as many members together as possible at 2.00 pm on Saturday February 16th at the Historic Stromlo Cottage, Noffs Crescent Coombs 2611, for the photograph. We now have our T shirts which we'll use for the photo. We have 20 T-shirts so we are inviting as many members as can do so to turn up for the photo that day. I hope to see you there.

Jeanne Arthur

President, DWDACT

8 February 2019