

Dying with Dignity ACT Inc.

Everyone deserves a peaceful death

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Bulletin No. 23

January 2021

2021 Committee

President: Jeanne Arthur, **Secretary:** Chris Wilson, **Treasurer:** Tony Whelan, **Committee members,** Carol Carlyon, Joan Post, Robert Altamore

Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for this year are as follows. Please put them in your diary.

General Meetings	Date	Time
Annual General Meeting	15 April	2.00 p.m.
General meeting	21 October	2.00 p.m.
Committee Meetings	Date	Time
	18 February	2.00 p.m.
	18 March	2.00 p.m.
	17 June	2.00 p.m.
	19 August	2.00 p.m.
	16 September	2.00 p.m.

Membership Renewal

Members who renew each year are reminded that our financial year runs from January to December. Renewing members should renew now.

Those of you who do internet banking can go to our website at www.dwdact.org.au and fill in the membership form. Our bank details are as follows.

- > Bank: Beyond Bank Australia BSB: 325-185
- > Account Name: Dying With Dignity ACT
- > Account Number: 03415176

Our treasurer, Tony Whelan will send out renewal forms this month to those members who renew annually but do not use internet banking.

Developments this year

The media articles I have received so far this year seem positive for law reform all around the country but especially in Tasmania and Queensland. There is still movement in South Australia despite the 'watch and wait' position taken by the committee set up to make recommendations to the South Australian Parliament. Even in NSW public pressure for change is growing strongly despite resistance from the NSW parliament.

Petition proposal

Last year I drafted a proposal for a petition that would come from us via the Federal Parliament's Standing Committee on Petitions. I submitted a draft to the committee's secretariat to see if it would be approved. The response indicated that it would.

Given the complications of 2020 and because it was the end of the year I put off submitting the petition for final approval until now. I hope that people will be more open to signing such a petition now in a new year. Parliamentary petitions are also only available for signing for a month after they have been approved so it's important that signatories act quickly.

Once our petition has been approved I plan to send it to all the DWD and VE groups. Through them I hope that it will circulate widely through the Australian community. Given the shift now occurring in Australian parliaments towards reforming the law I hope that many people will be prepared to sign a petition to ensure that assisted dying will be available to all Australians throughout Australia including the territories.

I am including in this Bulletin Dr David Swanton's letter asking members to complete his survey. I agreed to put off sending the survey last year until now due to the fear by members of other VE groups that it might be used as an argument by opponents of assisted dying to convince parliamentarians to vote against any bill on the grounds that the legislation would be the beginning of further weakening of protections of people from assisted death to death on order.

Please find his letter and survey at the end of this Bulletin. I encourage you to complete it as soon as possible.

Jeanne Arthur
President
DWDACT
January 2021

Dear members of Voluntary Euthanasia Societies and Dying with Dignity Organisations

If you support voluntary assisted dying (VAD), we would be grateful if you could share your views with us to further the cause.

Please complete our short survey by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6QSI2H7>

We will use the survey to gather information on VAD issues and analyse the data so that we, VAD organisations and governments can make better informed decisions.

All responses are confidential and are greatly appreciated.

Warmest regards

Dr David Swanton

Ethical Rights

www.ethicalrights.com