

SUBMISSION FROM VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (SUICIDE RELATED MATERIAL OFFENCES) BILL 2004

Dear Senators

The aim of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of NSW is to promote legislation which, with the proper safeguards, entitles any person suffering severe pain or distress, with no reasonable prospect of recovery, to a painless, medically assisted and dignified death in accordance with his or her expressed direction.

Over decades our Society has shown itself to be an example of responsible and informed debate on this increasingly important issue for the Australian community.

We believe that an informed debate about suicide results in harm minimisation. A person aware of all their options will often extend their life by not acting prematurely. Unsuccessful suicide attempts often lead to unintended physical or mental harm.

In a democracy censorship of the free distribution of information restricts rational debate.

We respectfully ask that members of the committee satisfy themselves that the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Offences) Bill 2004 does not prevent (intentionally or otherwise) the ongoing debate.

Judy Wedderburn
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Voluntary Euthanasia Society of New South Wales
BROADWAY