

Media Release

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Minister of religion stands for Legislative Council on Voluntary Euthanasia platform in world first

Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia said today they believe that for Rev. Dr Craig de Vos to be standing in the no 2 spot for the Group *Christians for Voluntary Euthanasia* for the Legislative Council in the upcoming South Australian election, is a world first. Rev de Vos is standing with Group co-founder Mr Ian Wood.

Rev. Dr de Vos, highly respected as a theologian in social aspects of the New Testament, is a practising Minister who holds a passion for social justice issues.

“Our politicians, often guided by dogmatic religious beliefs, continue to deny the majority who want the choice of a death with dignity,” he says. “We want to redress this imbalance.”

Rev. Dr de Vos says, “Some oppose voluntary euthanasia arguing that it’s wrong because it’s playing God. Yet so is artificially prolonging life, and so is allowing people to suffer a horrific death when there are more compassionate alternatives.”

Newspoll survey data shows that the overwhelming majority of South Australians—85%—believe the law should be reformed to allow a person suffering intolerably and without relief from a terminal or advanced stage of an incurable illness, to seek and obtain medical assistance to die with dignity. Support includes three out of four Catholics and four out of five Anglicans, with just one out of ten South Australians opposed.

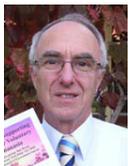
“The South Australian Parliament has continually failed to enact the people’s wishes despite the fact that Christians overwhelmingly want this reform. Most Christians believe it is consistent with Jesus’ message of love and compassion,” Mr Wood says.

He adds, “There is no doubt that to deny the option of a peaceful dignified death when there is suffering that cannot be relieved is to deny a basic human right.”

The last time voluntary euthanasia was debated in the South Australian Parliament was 18th November last year, when MLC Mark Parnell’s *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care (Voluntary Euthanasia) Amendment Bill 2008* was defeated 11 votes to 9.

Mr Wood and Rev. Dr de Vos hope that South Australians will show their support at the ballot box on March 20th. More information for Christians is available at www.christiansforve.org.au.

Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia represents the majority of Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with legal voluntary euthanasia.



Ian Wood



Rev Dr Craig de Vos