

## WAVES News

### Media Watch - Week to 1/8/2015

- 26 July. The Advocate (Tas): [Enjoyable ride with Caton and co](#)
- 27 July. ABC Radio 774 News: [Steve Guest's brothers continue right-to-die campaign a decade on](#). John and Andrew Guest are continuing to campaign for euthanasia law reform 10 years after the death of their brother.
- 28 July. The (Warrnambool) Standard: [South-west medical experts speak at Parliamentary inquiry](#)
- 28 July. The Courier (Ballarat): [Euthanasia talks to be resurfaced says Michael Caton](#). CONVERSATIONS surrounding euthanasia should be resurfaced according to legendary Aussie actor Michael Caton who was in Ballarat to promote his upcoming film Last Cab to Darwin.
- 28 July. [News.com.au](#): [The bitter battle over the life of Vincent Lambert](#). Overseas story of a 38 year old French brain-damaged, quadraplegic. His wife, parents and eight siblings continue a bitter legal battle over whether he should be allowed to die.
- 28 July. [SBS.com.au](#): [Depression 'common cause' of help to die](#). Report of a Belgian study published in BMJ Open. Out of 100 Dutch requests for euthanasia by psychiatric patients, 58 patients were found to be suffering from depression.
- 28 July. Also in [SkyNews.com.au](#).
- 29 July. NT News: On this day IN THE TERRITORY 20 YEARS AGO: "Federal and State leaders were yesterday urged to establish a joint royal commission into euthanasia laws. The Northern Territory has euthanasia laws and a proposal is before the New South Wales Parliament." (Thanks to Judy Dent for sending this one.)
- 30 July. The Age: [Jay Franklin is pleading for help to end his life peacefully](#). 38 yr old Victorian man accepted by Dignitas says he no longer wants to make the difficult journey to Europe to die. He wants to do that at home instead.
- 30 July. Same story in [WAtoday](#).
- 30 July. Geelong Advertiser: [Michael Caton's new film Last Cab to Darwin tackles euthanasia and racism](#)
- 30 July. The (Tas) Examiner: Letter opposing. Scroll to end for full text.
- 30 July. ABC Radio Melb 774: [End of Life Care](#) (and Practicing Law in China). Melbourne lawyer Andrew Godwin, senior lecturer at the Uni of Melbourne Law School discusses the upcoming Victorian Inquiry into end of life care and choices. "Reports of inadequate end of life care and choices are rife, and clinicians such as Victoria's Dr Rod Syme have been challenging our laws around assisted suicide and euthanasia for years now."
- 31 July. The (Warrnambool) Standard: [Right support helps take fear out of dying](#). "The terminally ill who are well-supported and have talked about dying are less likely to contemplate euthanasia, a Warrnambool Parliamentary hearing into end of life choices heard this week." The public hearing was part of the panel's tour to locations across the state to assess current practices, review current legislation and investigate whether changes to legislation should be made.
- 1 Aug. Geelong Advertiser: [Doctor seeks better process for discussing end-of-life care](#). The medical director of Barwon Health's intensive care unit was among 19 professionals in a range of fields to share their insights at a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into End of Life Choices hearing in Geelong.

- 1 Aug. Reviews of Last Cab to Darwin: [The Australian](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [The retiree.com.au](#), [Sunshine Coast Daily](#), [The Age](#)

Also of Interest:

- 27 July. [Euthanasia Politics in the Australian State and Territorial Parliaments](#).

Alison Plumb has submitted a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of The Australian National University on Euthanasia Politics in the Australian State and Territorial Parliaments. Successive attempts to reform the law in the states have been unsuccessful. Why has law reform on voluntary euthanasia not taken place despite widespread support from the public and considerable support from the medical profession?

- 26 July. [Startsatsixty.com.au: Why is no one talking about this shocking fact?](#) "no one is talking about the fact older males are three times more likely to commit suicide than their younger counterparts?"

- 30 July. Geelong Star Community: [Death without dignity 'torture', inquiry hears](#). The inquiry heard emotional pleas from Dying with Dignity campaign supporters, who told the hearing "there are some things worse than death" and that "not being able to die with dignity is the ultimate torture".

- [OurSay.com](#). The top 3 voted questions will be put to the Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, in a live broadcast on 14 August. DWDnsw President, Sarah Edelman, has posted a question on VAD. You have 7 votes and you can use all those votes on this one question. To vote, you need to log in using your email address and formulate a password [Click here for the link direct to Sarah's question](#). (Press the red VOTE button next to the question 7 times if you want to give it 7 votes.)

### **The (Tas) Examiner: Letter 30 July.**

Euthanasia

I AM astounded that the matter of euthanasia is being pursued again in the parliament of Tasmania.

What has changed to bring this previously failed debate back into the house?

I agree with Pat Gartlan (Letters, July 22) that the experience in other countries where euthanasia is legal, is hardly encouraging, and indeed it is "a step too far" to allow medically induced suicide, where people with terminal illnesses, for whatever reason, wish to die.

Doctors are charged with caring for their patients, and continuing that care with all their medical skills, not to kill them.

It has been my experience as a registered nurse, that pain can indeed be greatly controlled with loving and compassionate palliative care.

I have seen many, many deaths from terminal illness, in which the sick and their loved ones have become closer and share the control of fear and pain together, even small children saying loving goodbyes by the bedsides.

That is how death should be, not a rapid "dispatch" when pain and fear get difficult.

We desperately need a 'stand alone Palliative Care Unit' where the dying can die with real dignity, in God's time, loved and respected by all who have any contact with them during their final journey.

— MARY BATES, Exeter.