

WAVES News

Media Watch - Week to 10/10/2015

- 23 Sept. NT News: [Crusade to bring back euthanasia](#). It is the lead up to 20 years since the first legal voluntary euthanasia in NT. Judy Dent, wife of Bob Dent who was the first person to use the law, is quoted extensively.
- 24 Sept. (Tas) Examiner: Euthanasia. Scroll to end for full text.

Also of Interest:

- 23 Sept. AMA Australian Medicine: [Canadian doctors unwilling to aid in assisted dying](#). The Supreme Court of Canada has struck down laws banning physician-assisted suicide for patients with "grievous and irremediable" medical conditions. Despite the change, a new survey indicated only 29 per cent of Canadian physicians would be willing to assist a gravely ill patient who wants to end their life. However, In a smaller poll, of the 372 GPs questioned, 65 per cent said they would be willing to provide an assisted death if there were clear rules.

The Examiner Letter to the Editor 24 Sept.

Euthanasia

Well done to California which has voted to allow voluntary euthanasia/dying with dignity in that state.

Why do we have to be so backward?

As I have reached the age of 70 plus, I see my friends, some of whom are very fortunate to pass away in their sleep, but some have lingered on in pain, wishing for it to end, being kept alive by doctors.

Yes, I understand that doctors are there to preserve life, and am very thankful they do, but when the time comes, let us decide when there is no chance of recovery.

Please let us go as our family remember us, not as a vegetable just lying there.

At the end of the day I may change my mind, but give me the option to choose the manner of my passing. Surely this issue is far more important than the gay vote.

— PETER TRENCHARD, Lanena.

- 4 Oct. Geelong Advertiser: [Advance Care Planning: How would you like to die?](#) Motor Neurone Disease sufferer, Monica Hayes is using her remaining time to advocate for Advance Care Planning
- 5 Oct. Newcastle Herald: [Opinion: There must be choice for end-of-life exit](#). Strongly argued piece by DWDnsw member, Adam Schultz.
- 6 Oct. The Age: [California passes euthanasia bill: Governor Jerry Brown signs measure into law](#). The largest State in the USA (Population 38 million) becomes the fifth USA State to allow terminally ill patients to legally end their lives. California joins Oregon, Washington, Vermont and Montana - a total of approx. 85 million Americans or more than 25% of the total USA population. DWDtas issued [a media release](#) praising the California Governor.
- 6 Oct. SkyNews: [California governor signs euthanasia bill](#)
- 7 Oct. SBS: [California to allow assisted suicide for terminally ill](#)

- 8 Oct. The Age: [Young, fit and killing themselves using euthanasia drug.](#)

The Victorian Coroner's office told the state government inquiry into end-of-life choices that between 1999 and 2014, 52 Victorians died using nembutal, "the peaceful pill". The majority of these were young people who were physically healthy, but mentally ill. While there is concern about young people using the drug, many more Victorians are battling crippling and incurable illnesses and taking their lives each year, often dying alone and in harrowing circumstances. The inquiry heard that there were 197 suicides in Victoria between 2009 and 2012 in which the deceased was suffering from an "irreversible deterioration of their physical health". This includes people who were living with cancer, incurable conditions such as multiple sclerosis and chronic pain-related disorders resistant to medication. The Coroner John Olle went through five of such suicide cases in distressing detail during the hearing.

-10 Oct. [ABC.net.au: Court upholds decision to keep brain-damaged Frenchman Vincent Lambert alive.](#) Story of the family of a French man in a persistent vegetative state at differences about switching off his life support.

Also of Interest:

- The AMA (Australian Medical Association) is [undertaking a review](#) of its policy on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. It is calling on it's AMA members (only) to provide input to a review of it's policy. (Thanks to Marshall Perron for this alert.)