

Letter from the President



Margaret Tighe

Dear Friends of Life,

As we face yet another year of battling to restore respect for human life, we have been reminded by the pro-euthanasia Age newspaper on two recent occasions, that the numbers of candidates for government-sanctioned physician assisted suicide are more than the Andrews' government predicted.

Already - there are calls for some of the so-called "safeguards" to be removed – just as we have predicted. Once a government has sanctioned the killing of its citizens – there will be no stopping it. Just look at what has occurred in Holland and Belgium – euthanasia now for mental illness!

With euthanasia allowed now in Victoria and Western Australia and with predictions looming for it in Queensland and Tasmania-God help Australia!

Margaret Tighe, PRESIDENT

NSW: Assisted suicide and euthanasia bill: not in "this term of government"

The Deputy Premier of New South Wales and leader of the Nationals, the Hon John Barilaro, has said that he will make it very clear to Nationals MLC, the Hon Trevor Khan, that neither in the short term "*nor for the balance of this term of government*" should any National be giving any time to dealing with the issue of assisted suicide and euthanasia legislation. Instead the focus ought to be on bushfire recovery.

Mr Barilaro's view has been echoed by the Treasurer, the Hon Dominic Perrotet; Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott; new Nationals MLC Sam Faraway and several other Liberal MPs. Even Liberal MP Lee Evans, who was a member with Mr Khan of a working group that sponsored an assisted suicide and euthanasia bill that was defeated by 20-19 in the NSW Legislative Council in November 2017, has said "*Given the current state of emergency any legislation of this nature is well and truly put on the back burner.*"

One Nation MLC, the Hon Mark Latham has suggested that Mr Khan "listen to the priorities of the country people he's supposed to represent" rather than pursuing assisted suicide and euthanasia legislation.

As well as citing the need to focus on recovery from drought and bushfires, Liberal MPs also pointed to the division caused in the community, the Parliament and the Liberal Party by the surprise introduction of the bill that later passed as the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. In the midst of that contentious debate NSW Premier the Hon Gladys Berejiklian, reportedly told her party room that "there would be no more conscience votes in this term of government."

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Latest Good news from the USA – Kathy Edgeworth

Sizing up the status of Right to Life at the beginning of a new year requires an evaluation of Mr. Trump. It's the understatement of the century to say he remains controversial. In this article I will limit my comments to the effect of his administration on the Pro-Life Movement.

Mr. Trump is already reshaping the federal judiciary. One quarter of all federal judges are now Trump appointees. This from a man who has been president for just three years. The Ninth Circuit Court (sometimes referred to as the Ninth Circus, which includes California) has even upheld Mr. Trump on a couple of items. This has been accomplished by abandoning the traditional "blue slip" system. Previously if a Senator from the nominee's home state refused to provide that person with a positive "blue slip", showing no objection, the nominee wasn't confirmed. Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell has ended this tradition. Effectively it means that Democratic Senators from states like California no longer have the power to block Trump nominees.

On the national level, Planned Parenthood is no longer receiving federal funds. They made the choice to continue providing abortion referrals, and hence had to give up federal funds. Mr. Trump has appointed two conservatives to the Supreme Court and may have the opportunity to appoint a third. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (who probably has never heard of an abortion she didn't think should be legal), is eighty-six and has had two bouts of pancreatic cancer and one each of lung and colon cancer. Mr. McConnell has stated that the Republicans would fill any vacancy, that arises, and not wait until after the 2020 election. He has become a firm supporter of Mr. Trump, instead of the establishment person he seems to have been previously. Whether it has anything to do with



Kathy Edgeworth at the Republican National Convention Louisiana 2016

Mr. Trump's very strong showing in McConnell's home state of Kentucky (where he's up for re-election this year) or just his being fed up with the Democrats is debatable.

Justice Roberts has been trying to keep the Supreme Court from becoming more controversial than necessary, but that strategy can only be pursued for so long. He is justifiably concerned about various plans to liberalize the Court

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NSW: Assisted suicide and euthanasia bill: not in “this term of government” (cont.)

In response to these public criticisms Mr Khan has said that when Parliament resumes the cross-party group, which includes Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann, “will meet and consider what’s next”. However he has conceded “We have much work to do in convincing colleagues of the appropriateness of the reform [sic] before, and I emphasise before, we introduce a bill”.

These developments make it very unlikely that the Government would concede any government business time for a debate on an assisted suicide and euthanasia bill. However, nothing precludes Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann, who has said she was “committed to seeing dying with dignity laws pass in NSW during this term of Parliament” from introducing a private member’s bill. Given the Western Australian euthanasia bill was debated for 175 hours there may be little chance of any such bill passing without the extra oxygen that was given to last year’s abortion bill (by government business time in both houses being surrendered to debate on that bill).

We suggest a letter to the Premier The Hon. Gladys BEREJIKLIAN Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, 280 Willoughby Road, Naremburn NSW 2065 saying “no more government attacks on human life”. Ed. Love and care, not killing!

Respect life to the very end: Bishop Harris



Bishop Tim Harris (ACBC)

Cath News – a Service of the Australian Catholic Bishops conference – 19 November 2019

Townsville Bishop Tim Harris advocated strongly against euthanasia in his weekend homily, saying it was important to have a conversation on

the “grim” topic. *Source: Townsville Bulletin.*

Bishop Harris likened euthanasia to the Nazi Germany era and said it would diminish the value of life.

“It reminds me of Nazi Germany, these are some of the things that people did because if someone was not 100 per cent, crippled, if they had something wrong with them, if they were aged or not of use to society any more the state then would select certain people and say we’ll experiment on you or we’ll kill you because you’re not worth anything,” he said.

“I believe to assist someone to die in an intentional manner is clearly intentional killing and the church does not believe in intentional killing.” Instead, Bishop Harris said there should be more attention on improving palliative care services.

“A state-sanctioned voluntary assisted suicide can have all the safeguards it likes but even then things can go wrong, the best safeguard is not to do it,” he said.

Hon Nick Goiran MLC

Member of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia
No Australian politician has done more for defence of human life than Hon Nick Goiran MLC (photograph) who tenaciously fought against the Western Australian euthanasia law.

Parliament of Western Australia Hansard (Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019) 22/10/19



**Hon. Nicolas (Nick) Pierre Goiran MLC
BCom, LLB**

“I made it very clear in my contribution to the second reading debate that I have been researching this matter for 10 years and it is my view that it is a legal impossibility to create a safe system.”

...“What did the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia have to say to the Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying about that?

It said, as quoted in the Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying’s report – ‘Clinicians often use complex medical terminology when discussing

treatment options with Aboriginal people ... This results in the real risk that Aboriginal people may consent to something they don’t fully understand.

There is also the issue of the disparity of power between a doctor and Aboriginal people; Aboriginal people will often agree with a doctor’s advice even if they are not happy with it as they can feel overpowered in the doctor–patient relationship’. Those are not my words and not my view of the world; that is a submission by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia to the Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying.”

National March for Life in Wellington New Zealand Dec 2019



DEC 8, 2019 Right to Life New Zealand www.righttolife.org.nz/
Family first NZ photo.

Right to Life NZ commends the 2,400 men, women and children who peacefully and joyfully marched to Parliament in Wellington yesterday, Saturday 7th December 2019, to express their support for a culture of life with love for mothers and their precious unborn.

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Latest Good news from the USA (cont.)

should a Democrat be elected President in 2020. Court packing (increasing the number of Justices on the Court so as to create a liberal majority) has been suggested.

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the 2014 Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

Louisiana has passed a "heartbeat law" which would ban abortions except to save the life of the mother when a heartbeat is detected, at about six weeks of pregnancy.

National Democrats are furious and frustrated that the only Democratic Governor in the Deep South signed the legislation. John Bel Edwards would not have been re-elected in November of last year had he not been pro-life. The Edwards' were advised by doctors to abort one of their children who had been diagnosed with spina bifida. They chose to have this child and today she is a married university graduate. Nobody can accuse him of hypocrisy.

This brings us to the future of Pro-Lifers within the Democratic Party, especially at the National Level. They have become an endangered species. Mr. Biden has rescinded his support for the Hyde Amendment (which bans federal funding for most abortions). Mayor Pete Buttigieg at a town hall in Iowa gave no commitment on endorsing the provisions of previous Democratic Platforms which stated that the Democratic party was a "big tent" party, welcoming people with differing views on abortion. Sen. Elizabeth Warren wants to be inaugurated wearing a pro Planned Parenthood banner. According to one survey 28% of Democrats are Pro-Life. Throwing many of their votes away doesn't make sense.

On the positive side Mr. Trump's appearance at the annual Right to Life Rally was a huge morale booster. He is the first President to do so.

Kathy Edgeworth is a member of the Republican Party in the United States and delegate to the Republican National Convention for Louisiana.

PREGNANCY COUNSELLING TRAINING at RTLA OFFICE.



Lois Dean PCA coordinator (right) with counsellors (from left) Lidiya and Raffaella.

MORE ABORTION FOR S.A ON THE HORIZON

There has been a slight difference of opinion as to how to combat a government proposed abortion to birth law in South Australia. The following letter with contact details of all South Australian MPs has been sent to all of our South Australian supporters.

Dear South Australian supporters

"Every abortion kills a baby" – that should be the pro-life mantra. Pro-lifers must never tolerate even a little bit of abortion - as history has shown us – a little bit of abortion that has been tolerated has rapidly become abortion till birth elsewhere - and now threatens South Australia.

*How many of you know that in 1970 the South Australian Liberal Government legalised a blueprint copy of the UK Abortion Act of 1968? South Australia was the first state in Australia to legalise abortion. Since that time abortions have been able to be carried out and are now allowed up to **28 weeks of pregnancy!***

Now the S.A. government of the day plans to further extend abortion laws until birth. It is mistaken to think that by supporting the status quo pro-lifers will prevent passage of an abortion to birth law.

*It is essential you tell your legislators – **NOT** a little bit of abortion!*

- 1. Please write to your 1 (one) Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).*
- 2. Please write to **ALL** Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs).*

Use the enclosed list of MLAs and MLCs.

CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:

c/- Parliament House, GPO Box 572, Adelaide, SA 5001

Telephone - (08) 8237 9100 Toll Free - 1800 182 097

LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS ARE MOST EFFECTIVE!

It is essential you do not sign a petition by South Australian Abortion Action for Women currently being circulated that appears to condone the present disgraceful abortion climate in South Australia.

Yours sincerely

*Margaret Tighe
PRESIDENT*

STOP EUTHANASIA IN THE APPLE ISLE

TASMANIAN MP Mike Gaffney - Independent Member for Mersey in the Legislative Council has released a consultation draft Bill [End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020] to allow euthanasia in the beautiful apple isle of Tasmania and is planning to move the bill in Parliament in August 2020. Download it from bit.ly/3700Kvy Another state poised to follow Victoria and Western Australia down the path of destruction of human life. Updates to Tasmanian supporters to be forwarded soon.

VICTORIA'S SLIPPERY SLOPE



Anton Pergl

Over the Christmas/New Year period, Melbourne newspaper The Age has covered 2 stories relating to the assisted suicide regime in place in Victoria.

On Friday 27 December 2019, an article was written by Melissa Cunningham, The Age's health reporter, about the higher than expected number of applications to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board - bit.ly/2U59CNN. The State Government expected the number of patients accessing the law could be as low as 12 in the first year. However, 11 people received approval to end their lives within just the first 11 days of operation.

The Age have obtained figures that there have been approximately five applications a week in the first six months of the Voluntary Assisted Dying scheme. Based on this, it is estimated that more than 140 terminally ill people have made applications to die. The fact that there is a huge increase from the State Government's own expectation in those wishing to end their own life through this scheme is surely cause for concern.

The next report from the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board is expected in February and will contain updated statistics.

The article goes on to mention that there is a shortage of medical specialists who have undertaken the necessary training to be eligible to assist a patient with their assisted dying request.



This photo by unknown author is licenced under CC BY-ND

Melbourne oncologist Cameron McLaren is a board member of "Dying with Dignity". He is quoted in the article as saying, "As it currently stands, it's being upheld by very few of us. The people involved in the scheme are doing a fantastic job but there is a real need for more specialist doctors to sign up."

Perhaps more doctors than expected have an ethical opposition to assisting someone end their own life.

Also, on Monday 20 January 2020, Melissa Cunningham reported on a paper published in the Medical Journal of Australia concluding that Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 is too restrictive - bit.ly/2vuuP9k. The concern expressed was that the law prevents doctors from initiating conversations with patients about voluntary assisted dying. The academics who wrote the paper described the restriction as a "gag clause" and undermines the ethical obligations of doctors to patients.

Notably, this clause was excluded from the Western Australian assisted suicide laws passed last year, making the WA act even more extreme.

Warnings about the "slippery slope" of expanding the scope of the assisted suicide regime in Victoria are clearly coming true.

Anton Pergl



Quebec to allow euthanasia for mental illness

Excerpt of article by Michael Cook - BioEdge 26 Jan 2020

The Canadian province of Quebec will expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia to include people with severe and incurable mental illness, says Health Minister Danielle McCann. The guidelines will be drafted by the Quebec college of physicians.

Both the minister and the college believe that few people would be affected.

"We don't expect many of these patients will qualify, because one of the other criteria that remains is to suffer from a disease that is not curable, which is not necessarily the case of all mental health situations," said Dr. Yves Robert, the college's secretary. "It will really be an individual, case-by-case decision that will be done."

The announcement follows last year's court ruling that patients did not need to be "at the end of life" to be eligible for "medical aid in dying" as assisted suicide and euthanasia are called in Canada.

"The guide will be modified to include safeguards, elements that allow (for) medical aid in dying for people who have severe mental disorders and who are resistant to any treatment," McCann said. A psychiatrist will also have to be consulted.

Euthanasia for mental health issues raises complex medical and ethical questions, say critics of extending the criteria. All "suffering" has a subjective dimension and there is no certainty about whether mental illness is incurable.

However, Dr Robert counters that in Belgium and the Netherlands, where euthanasia for mental illness is lawful, mental health cases have been a minority of overall cases.

"We are approaching a no-man's land, where nobody else was before, so to be prudent and to take the time to have a good reflection and to do one step at a time and do it in a spirit of serenity and wisdom is probably the best way to handle and treat these very delicate and complicated issues," Robert said.

Michael Cook is editor of BioEdge.

Dramatic euthanasia trial ends in acquittal for all three Belgian doctors



Excerpt of article by Michael Cook, BioEdge. 1 Feb 2020

Three Belgian doctors charged with unlawful euthanasia in a landmark trial were acquitted in the wee hours of Friday morning. When the 12-member jury delivered the verdict after eight hours of deliberation, the courtroom erupted in applause and cheers.

The case made headlines in Belgium and around the world because it was the first time that doctors had been charged with a violation of the controversial euthanasia law since it was passed in 2002. The patient, Tine Nys, was a 38-year-old woman with a troubled past, including estrangement from her family, suicide attempts, an abortion, and prostitution. She died on 27 April 2010 surrounded by her family.

Her sisters – who did not oppose euthanasia in principle – filed a complaint. They believed that she was not incurably ill, a condition for legal euthanasia, but merely depressed from the stress of a failed relationship. She had also recently been diagnosed with autism.

The jury found that the psychiatrist, Godelieve Thienpont, had not erred in recommending euthanasia because Tine's suffering really was incurable; that her family doctor, Frank D., did not really sign off on her death; and that there were reasonable doubts about the actions of the doctor who gave the lethal injection, Joris Van Hove.

The trial gave the lawyer for Van Hove, Walter Van Steenbrugge, ample opportunity to exhibit impressive rhetorical skills. "The only good thing that can come out of this," he told the jury, "is that Tine Nys becomes the Joan of Arc of euthanasia. I say this with love in my heart: posthumously fulfil her wish and acquit these doctors." . . .

A leading critic of the verdict stated "There is no check by the euthanasia committee and no judicial check is now possible. Euthanasia has become a matter of course, a generalized right to suicide. The will of the individual becomes the only law."

Michael Cook is editor of BioEdge

Push for Nurse-led Abortions

Excerpt from article by Jocelyn Wright – *The Australian Doctor*
7 November 2019

Nurses are willing to take over the 'time-intensive aspect' of early medical abortion care says Dr Caroline de Moel-Mandel, **Public Health Researcher, La Trobe University Melbourne.**

There are new calls for nurses to take charge of most aspects of medical abortion to boost women's access to termination services.

Aside from prescribing mifepristone-misoprostol (MS 2-Step), which must be done by a doctor registered with MS Health, medical abortion advocates say nurse-led evaluation, counselling and follow-up of patients would benefit rural women in particular.

Nationwide, only 1300 GPs have completed the training and registration that was a mandatory condition when the TGA first approved the regimen in 2006.

In a letter to the *Medical Journal of Australia*, public health researchers Dr Caroline de Moel-Mandel and Associate Professor Melissa Graham, from La Trobe University in Melbourne, said that a nurse-led model of care would increase women's access to abortion.

Dr de Moel-Mandel said mifepristone prescribing by doctors needed to be easier, but noted that research suggested more nurses than GPs were interested in medical abortion training.

Her survey of 39 GPs and 30 primary healthcare nurses in rural and regional Victoria found that only five of the doctors were registered to prescribe it. They cited barriers such as a lack of training opportunities, after-hours advice and surgical backup in case of complications.

Nurses (77%) were far more interested in training than GPs (47%).

"Together with a GP wanting to be involved in the process, if registered nurses are trained, then there is definitely a possibility for them to [provide medical abortion]," Dr de Moel-Mandel told *Australian Doctor*.

Médecin Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)

Médecin Sans Frontières does great work in war-torn and impoverished countries of the world. They would have saved many lives – sadly we received this information today: "Medicin Sans Frontiers and in fact entirely the Australian and NZ contingent, are heavily pushing abortion "care" around South America and Africa without addressing the wider issues of disadvantage." For further reading - www.safeabortioncare.msf.org/en/ www.howtouseabortionpill.org/online-courses/medical-abortion-humanitarian-aid-workers/

TO ALL PROLIFE PEOPLE IN QUEENSLAND

Pressure is being exerted on the current Queensland government to legalise euthanasia or physician – assisted suicide.

As is usually the case the media are helping to stir up public support for it – especially the ABC.

Write to Premier Palaszczuk c/- Parliament House, Cnr of George and Alice Streets, Brisbane, QLD, 4000. Say NO to patient killing! To quote Tom Kenyon former Labor MP for Newlands in the South Australian Parliament "It is always wrong for the state to kill its citizens even when they request it."

The latest of Graham Preston, Australia's Leading Prolifer

Dear Friends.

30 December 2019

Just a brief note to let you know the outcome of the post-Christmas vigil. As expected, it was not long into the first morning before the police arrived – three cars with six police!

A senior constable who had been involved with Anne's arrest at last year's vigil did all the talking. After a few minutes speaking to us he went back to his car and had a fairly long discussion with someone on his phone. When he returned he said that he had talked with his superior officer and then with another level of superior officer above that and they had decided that since the abortion clinic was not open, we could stay!

So long as there were no staff or clients there we would not be given



a move on direction. As you can imagine we were very surprised at this development, to say the least!

We wondered if the clinic would organize for a staff member to show up just to make things difficult. According to the Children By Choice website though the place is not due to reopen for "business" until January 2 and as

it turned out it appeared that no staff did come. (One car with a couple and two children did enter and stay at the premises at one point for nearly an hour but who they were we have no idea.)

Quite a few members of the passing public told us, with varying degrees of anger, that it was illegal for us to be there and many took photos. We expect that the police heard from quite a few irate people over the three days and on the second day another police car did pull up. However it was explained to them what had been said to us by the other police and they even said that if we had any trouble to give them a call!

Otherwise, apart from a fairly steady stream of rude gestures and shouted abuse from passing traffic, and one pedestrian who made a bit of an effort to take off with the signs, it was a relatively peaceful vigil. We wonder what the High Court judges and Jackie Trad would have thought if they knew that we had been there!

One other curious thing: as soon as we arrived we noticed that the large sign for the abortion clinic has been replaced with one for a Dr Zeb McNamara who is an oral, dental and maxillofacial surgeon. We were later told that this sign went up just a few weeks ago. We wondered if this meant that the abortion clinic had moved or closed. We tried ringing their number and there is only a brief recorded message, without any identification, to leave a message. We pointed this out to the police when they arrived but they said they then made a check on that and it is still apparently an abortion clinic. Presumably the businesses are sharing the premises.

It seems very odd though. There is now only a very small indication of the abortion clinic still being there – one of their symbols is on the wall of the building and that is behind a high fence. It would be nice to think that perhaps they may be in the process of leaving but time will tell.

Hopefully this "surprise" vigil will have had an impact on many people. Thank-you for praying.

Graham - Protect Life contact@protect-life.info>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CROSSES THE THRESHOLD

ALLOWING DOCTORS TO KILL PATIENTS - OR HELP PATIENTS TO KILL THEMSELVES



Eugene Ahern

Last December 2019 the Western Australian (WA) parliament voted for a euthanasia bill which legalises state sanctioned extra judicial executions with doctors as the executioners.

In Australia we have outlawed capital punishment. Now with barely a whimper two parliaments, first Victoria and now Western Australia have passed bills which legalise executions done without judicial process.

All that is required for patients to be executed by doctors is for a small amount of paperwork to be completed and rubber stamped, not by judges, but by bureaucrats who are chosen because they approve of these executions. The true nature of what is being legalised by the WA bill, like the Victorian bill is Hidden behind a deceitful euphemism with the title the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019.

What nonsense!

To give patients lethal poisons to kill them is simply killing, not assisted dying.

Those opposed to this dreadful bill put up a long and valiant fight to stop it. Theirs was an almost impossible task because of the lies of the euthanasia brigades led by Premier Mark McGowan who shouted down opponents of the bill pushed by his Labor government accusing them of "scaremongering".

Mr McGowan dismissed the objections of the opponents of legalising executions as "ridiculous". He trivialised a most serious legislative action revealing his ignorance of the grave concerns raised against such a step by the former Prime Minister Paul Keating.

He and his killing cohort completely failed to argue a rational case for such a momentous step as legalising the direct execution of patients. Reading their speeches shows that they were high on distorted emotion and completely lacking in an ethical or philosophical case for their bill.

The WA euthanasia bill is wrong in principle! **No one** should be executed. Full stop! "We don't kill people" as the great American jurist John Noonan never tired of saying. Now they will kill people in WA.

Having legalised killing and doctor prescribed assisted suicides, the euthanasia brigades try to sanitize their evils by euphemisms such as "voluntary assisted dying" and by supposed "safeguards" which are as porous as a gully trap.

Two fierce opponents of the bill were Hon Nick Goiran MLC and former Labor MP Tim Hammond who fought tirelessly first to defeat the bill, and when that failed, to push amendments to tighten the bill. This WA bill is more permissive than the dreadful Victorian bill with clauses opening the floodgates to wrongful death.

In WA doctors can push euthanasia - being allowed to begin conversations with patients about the options to choose death. This is especially dangerous when doctors are simply ignorant of advances

in palliative care and the positive management of terminally ill patients. This provision itself opens a pandora's box in WA. Doctors there will be free to push euthanasia on vulnerable patients.

Unlike in Victoria, patients there will not be required to be assessed by a specialist in the field of their supposed illness. The bill's critics warned that GPs being non-specialists, are in danger of mistaken diagnosis. Apart from wrongful diagnosis these non-specialist GPs may very often give false or wrong prognoses for patients who are declared to be terminally ill when they are not. Then there is the prospect that the GPs will get their assessment of a patient's life expectancy quite wrong and tell a patient he or she has only six months to live when in reality the patient's life expectancy may be much longer - even years.

We are dealing with the life and possible death of a person. This is a serious matter for the patients and their families. Such life and death decisions should never be made. That much is certain. However, it is even worse when the decisions are left in the hands of doctors without specialist expertise to sit in judgement over the lives of patients.

Former Labor MP Tim Hammond who was an outspoken opponent of the WA euthanasia bill injected some moral sanity into the debate: "[I]f we get it wrong in relation to diagnosis, what number [of wrongful deaths] is acceptable?"

The answer of course is a big zero. We make huge efforts to save the life of one person whose life is valued. Now this bill is judging some people as "better off dead."



Rally for Life WA 2019

This bill not only accepts this classification but it then proceeds to lay down the road to death either by direct executions by doctors or by doctor prescribed assisted suicides.

The life of not a single person should be at risk

or be taken. Having said that there is a grave danger that patients with mental illness will be at risk. The Victorian Act advises doctors to refer patients to a psychiatrist if the patients have a mental illness that affects their decision-making capacity to choose life or death by euthanasia. The WA bill has no such provision. Suicide prevention advocates and former SANE Australia Director Michael Perrott slammed this omission which further trivialises human lives. "We need expertly trained specialists to assist patient who are mentally unwell." Mr Perrott argued.

Critics of the bill have pointed to the undue influence doctors have under the bill which allows them to introduce the subject of euthanasia to patients as mentioned above. Related to this is the life ending dangers which the bill exposes the larger indigenous population living in remote areas to.

These people whose lives are precious have almost no access to allied health professionals where they live. Furthermore, palliative care is non-existent in remote indigenous communities. This leaves such people at the mercy of "Dr. Strangeloves" who want to tout euthanasia especially because they judge those patients as "better off dead".

Another sinister dimension of the bill attacked by its critics is that without the spectrum of allied health services and in the absence of palliative care, the families can put pressure on the patient to choose euthanasia and then pressure the doctors to set the euthanasia process in motion.

The bill is a recipe for disastrous deaths.

The tireless fighter against the bill Hon Nick Goiran MLC took up this matter in his second reading speech. He said "If psychological and emotional elder abuse is prevalent in Western Australia, how long is it for a person to be steered towards a voluntary assisted dying decision in circumstances of psychological and elder abuse?"

Hon Nick Goiran MLC highlighted the vacuous nature of the supposed safeguards in the bill. He pointed to how a person determined to die by euthanasia can just go on knocking on doctors' doors until he finds a doctor who will give the green light to the patient to go down the euthanasia track.

The final vote for the bill was 24 in favour to 11 against in the Legislative Council (bit.ly/39bGWqD p31). One MP Hon Adele Farina MLC voted for the bill at the second reading and then changed to vote against the bill at the third reading.

Despite pressure on her from her Labor government she stood up against the bill. In her speech Adele Farina highlighted seven major objections, the last being that because there is no supervision a patient could be virtually forced to take the lethal poison when they may have changed their mind. (bit.ly/39bGWqD p24)

Hon Nick Goiran MLC did the 'hard yards' to get some improvements to the bill. He moved a massive 357 amendments and succeeded in getting 25 of them passed. Perhaps his most significant amendment which was passed was to ban healthcare workers, other than a doctor from initiating a discussion of euthanasia or assisted suicide during a medical consultation.

At the end of his tireless battle Hon Nick Goiran MLC finished on a positive note pointing to palliative care. As he said, "There is a safe approach to end-of-life choices namely palliative care." The WA bill will come into force in mid-2021, when the executions will roll on like a massive snowball with the numbers relentlessly growing.

SPUC welcomes the defeat of assisted suicide threat on the Isle of Man

Excerpt from the Society for Protection of Unborn Children
23 January 2020 bit.ly/31JFSaW

Attempts to embed assisted suicide into the Isle of Man have failed. SPUC are thanking their supporters for taking action against this now defeated threat. Michael Robinson, SPUC Director of Communications said: "SPUC is ever grateful for their supporters and all who make tireless efforts to defeat the culture of death. On this occasion we thank those of the Isle of Man who assisted in over-turning this deadly threat." The debate which took place today at Tynwald, the Isle of Man's Parliament lasted for over five hours with pro-suicide advocates attempting to change the law.

The motion received widespread criticism and the Isle of Man Medical Society have maintained their position opposing assisted suicide.

Proclamation of 22 January 2020 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day

President Donald J Trump, USA.

bit.ly/31xoxBN

“Every person – the born and unborn, the poor, the downcast, the disabled, the infirm, and the elderly – has inherent value. Although each journey is different, no life is without worth or is inconsequential; the rights of all people must be defended. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, our Nation proudly and strongly reaffirms our commitment to protect the precious gift of life at every stage, from conception to natural death.

Recently, we have seen decreases in the total number and rate of abortions in our country. From 2007-2016, the most recent period of analysis, the number and rate of abortions decreased by 24 percent and 26 percent, respectively. The rate of teen pregnancies – the vast majority of which are unplanned – has almost continuously decreased over the last quarter century, contributing to the lowest rate of abortions among adolescents since the legalization of abortion in 1973. All Americans should celebrate this decline in the number and rate of abortions, which represents lives saved. Still, there is more to be done, and, as President, I will continue to fight to protect the lives of the unborn. I signed into law legislation under the Congressional Review Act that allows States and other grantees to exclude organizations that perform abortions from their Title X projects. My Administration has also issued regulations to ensure Title X family planning projects are clearly separated from those that perform, promote, or refer for abortion as a method of family planning; to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers and organizations, including with respect to abortion; and to ensure the Federal Government does not force employers that object, based on religious belief or moral conviction, to provide insurance for contraceptives, including those they believe cause early abortions. Additionally, I have called on the Congress to act to prohibit abortions of later-term babies who can feel pain.

My Administration is also building an international coalition to dispel the concept of abortion as a fundamental human right. So far, 24 nations representing more than a billion people have joined this important cause. We oppose any projects that attempt to assert a global right to taxpayer funded abortion on demand, up to the moment of delivery. And we will never tire of defending innocent life – at home or abroad.

As a Nation, we must remain steadfastly dedicated to the profound truth that all life is a gift from God, who endows every person with immeasurable worth and potential. Countless Americans are tireless defenders of life and champions for the vulnerable among us. We are grateful for those who support women experiencing unexpected pregnancies, those who provide healing to women who have had abortions, and those who welcome children into their homes through foster care and adoption. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we celebrate the wonderful gift of life and renew our resolve to build a culture where life is always revered.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 22, 2020, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Today, I call on the Congress to join me in protecting and defending the dignity of every human life, including those not yet born. I call on the American people to continue to care for women in unexpected pregnancies and to support adoption and foster care in a more meaningful way, so every child can have a loving home. And finally, I ask every citizen of this great Nation to listen to the sound of silence caused by a generation lost to us, and then to raise their voices for all affected by abortion, both seen and unseen.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.”

DONALD J. TRUMP

President of the United States of America

Christmas 2019



Mary, Val and Christine “seen” at our Christmas Party December 2019 with Margaret Tighe, President (centre) and Michael Fewster - Secretary (right).



John Macaulay, Vice President RTL New South Wales and Mary Collier CEO Right to Life Australia



Lorraine and Charles