



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Classification, Legal Services and
Native Title Division**

12 October 2007

Dr Philip Nitschke
Director
Exit International
PO Box 37781
DARWIN NT 0821

Dear Dr Nitschke

Exit Workshops

The Community Liaison Scheme (CLS), located within the Attorney-General's Department, is a joint Australian Government, State and Territory Government initiative which provides information to publishers, distributors, exhibitors and retailers and members of the public about their obligations under the national classification scheme. As part of this role, CLS officers conduct checks at outlets across Australia where films, computer games and certain publications are advertised, exhibited, hired or sold and also check websites in order to monitor compliance with classification laws.

I refer to the website www.exitinternational.net which states in the section on the Exit Workshops that "Workshops are supplemented by *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* (banned in Australia...".

According to the website, workshops are to be held on 16 and 30 October in Melbourne. Under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act 1995* (Vic), a person must not sell or deliver a publication classified RC (maximum penalty of \$26,400 or imprisonment for 2 years). Further, a person must not possess or copy a publication classified RC with the intention of selling the publication or copy (section 31). "Sell" is defined to include exchange, let on hire, offer or display for sale or exchange etc. On 24 February 2007, the Classification Review Board classified the publication *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* RC (Refused Classification). I wish to draw your attention to these offence provisions as the workshops may be potentially in breach of the Act.

I further note media reports that a film *Single Shot* is screened at the workshops. We have no record of this film being classified. Under the Act, a person must not exhibit in a public place or sell an unclassified film (sections 6 and 15) (unless the film is exempt from classification). Once again, the workshops may be potentially in breach of classification laws.

Please note, that a copy of this letter has been provided to Victoria Police and as similar provisions exist in classification enforcement legislation in all other jurisdictions, law enforcement agencies in all jurisdictions have been provided with a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Vosoba
Coordinator
Community Liaison Scheme

Cc Classification Enforcement Contact, relevant State and Territory law enforcement agency.



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Attorney General Threatens Closure of Euthanasia Workshops – Victorian police informed

In a move that has baffled **Voluntary Euthanasia advocate, Dr Philip Nitschke**, the Australian Attorney General – Philip Ruddock – has demanded that Exit International's highly popular 'Single Shot YouTube' video be withheld from screening at Exit workshops until it has been classified by the Office of Film and Literature Classification. This is despite the film receiving over 4000 viewings in its first month on the well-known video website, YouTube.com.

In a letter to Dr Nitschke on 12 Oct, the Attorney General has warned Exit International about its forthcoming Melbourne information workshops to be held at Tues 16th Oct, Koonarra Hall, 7 Balwyn Rd, Bulleen 10-1.

The letter notes that because Exit's workshops are "supplemented by the [now banned] *Peaceful Pill Handbook*" - reminding Dr Nitschke that it is a crime to *possess* this book – and because the Workshops access the YouTube.com website, they are "potentially in breach of classifications laws."

"We've known for a long time that the Howard government has been searching for a way to silence discussion about Voluntary Euthanasia and end of life choices" said Dr Nitschke from his home in Bulleen.

"First, we had the Kevin Andrews Bill that overturned the world's first Rights of the Terminally Ill Act of the Northern Territory, then we had changes to the Customs Act. We've had the introduction of the Suicide Related Material Offences Act which prohibited the use of the phone to discuss Voluntary Euthanasia and now this attack on my discussing the content of the *Peaceful Pill Handbook*, our use of YouTube.com – in short our whole workshop program.

The workshops in question are due to be held in Doncaster in the Victorian seat of Menzies where Dr Nitschke is running as an Independent Candidate against the incumbent - the Minister for Immigration Kevin Andrews.

"Perhaps the letter has come at this time and in relation to these workshops because the Minister is seriously worried about us taking votes from him at a time when he needs them most. I guess I knew politics could be dirty but I did not think that our Workshops would be the victim."

According to the Attorney General's office, the Victorian Police have been notified of the forthcoming Melbourne workshops. Dr Nitschke said he must prepare for a police raid.

Contact: Dr Philip Nitschke 0407 189 339

Date: 16 October 2007

'Single Shot' can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08we89neDUo>

Exit International's workshops are now in their 9th year and are held regularly around the country.