



Annual Report 2007

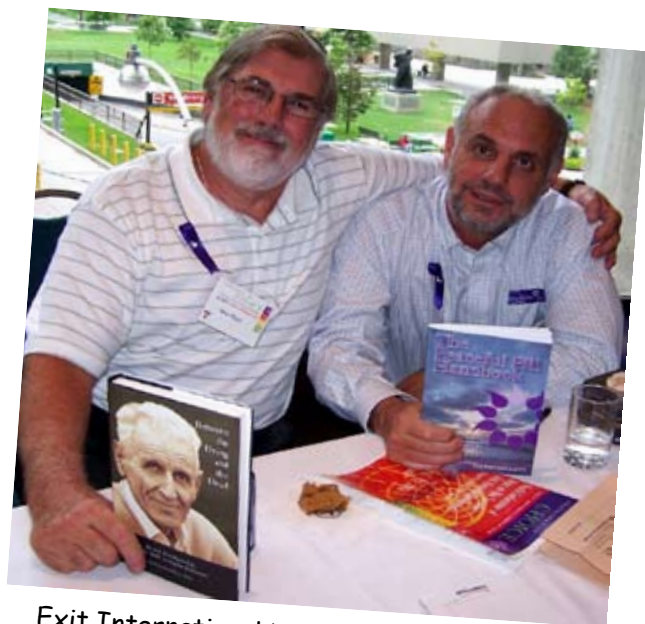


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Happy Mexico Shoppers

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Exit International US President Neal Nicol
& Philip Nitschke in Toronto

A Letter from our Founder & Director

Is it possible to advocate for VE law reform while providing our members with practical end of life choices? This year Exit has attempted to find out.

2007 has been a watershed year for Exit with many extraordinary events and significant media coverage as a result. The events ranged from celebrating the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Northern Territory's Rights of the Terminally Ill Act on July 1, 2006 to the commiserations 9 months later as we marked the Federal overturning of this ground-breaking law, Exit's first-hand involvement in the operations of the Dignitas service in Switzerland, the publication and then the banning of 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook', and the ongoing frustration and progress with the development of the Peaceful Pill. By any standards, this year has been a roller-coaster ride.

As you read through this Annual Report, you will see recorded many highlights of our activities over the past 12 months. On each occasion, I have attempted, via the organisation of Exit International, to address the needs of our 2000-plus members. At times the challenge has been overwhelming, especially as the priority of so many of our members - a Peaceful Pill - has seemed at times so elusive.

While the Pill project certainly had its problems, it is only now, some two years later, that we can stand back and look at how far we've come towards this 'holy grail' of end-of-life self-determination. I've asked you, the Exit community, to be patient with me on this journey and you have been. Your financial support towards assisting Exit to acquire laboratory equipment, has reassured me that the setbacks, dismay,



Dr Philip Nitschke

perseverance and, ultimately, the breakthroughs have been worthwhile.

On the political stage, the road has also been inspiring. The turnout for the National Day of Shame Freedom Ride to our Nation's capital was fantastic. Not only did we take our message to the most important House in the country, but we made new friends, and realised that we are not alone in our objection to the Howard government's systematic removal of our rights over the last 10 years.

At a more local level, the past year has seen Exit expand to all states and territories with members forming new Chapters in many regions. These local groups have provided a much-needed space for members to come together for information and social activities. People sometimes ask me if Exit is a depressing organisation, always dealing with death and dying. I tell them nothing is further from the truth. Our Chapters are testimony to the vibrancy and commitment of Exit members everywhere to come together for a common cause and to make a difference.

I am enormously proud of the organisation Exit has become and I thank everyone of you for your continuing support. Please enjoy this year's Annual Report.

Exit's Strategy Overview

At Exit International, we believe that it is the human right of all rational adults to control the time and place of their own death.

To realise this belief, Exit works to:

- Provide our members with practical information via workshops and private visits
- Undertake R&D into various end-of-life approaches that are reliable, peaceful and dignified
- Make Exit research findings of the above available to all in the Exit community
- To use strategies of civil disobedience to effect social change
- To disseminate information about our activities and goals in a range of publication forums including our monthly newsletter 'Deliverance', the weekly 'Exit News & Forum', in books such as 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' and through the media and other public channels.



Workshops and Private Visits

There has been strong demand for Exit workshops in 2007 with many workshops booking out weeks ahead. Indeed, the demand for these practical information sessions has been so great that Exit has embarked on a new strategy. We have begun making a teaching Workshop DVD, as a means of making the information more readily available to Exit members in Australia and overseas. The teaching DVD is due for completion in late 2007 and the new year will see a change of direction to this flagship program spreading the message further than was previously possible.



Crowded workshop in Melbourne

The most popular and important section of the workshop program is that focused on practical information. Our members want to know what drugs are reliably lethal and in what quantities. They want to know how to obtain and store the drugs, so that they can be prepared for the unknown that might be round the next corner. This is our goal in the workshop program: we want those attending to develop an end-of-life plan and to be prepared. And in so doing, ensure that loved ones are kept out of harm's way.



Demonstrating Helium

Exit private visits have also continued through the year and remain in strong demand. While Dr Nitschke is not able to fulfil all requests, in 2007 the Nancy's Friends program has provided a valuable emergency service when there has been lengthy delays in arranging a Private Visit.

From 2008, calendar weeks will be set aside for Private Visits. Exit's soon-to-open Sydney office will provide a useful location for seriously ill people to be seen, without the delays that have often been a problem in the past.



A DIY Session with Helium

The Peaceful Pill Handbook

From its celebrated launch at the World Federation of Right to Die Societies Conference in Toronto in September 2006 to its approval for publication by the Office of Literature and Classification in December 2006 to its outright banning by the Review Board in Australia in February 2007 and in New Zealand in June, 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook's' short life has been anything but peaceful.

'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' took two years in writing and research and benefited from Dr Nitschke's unique scientific and medical expertise. The book built upon the pioneering work of the classic text, 'Final Exit', to present information in a concise way for (seriously ill and elderly) people wishing to establish their end-of-life options.

Banned in Australia and New Zealand on the grounds that it instructs in matters of crime, 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' has continued to sell well at the on-line bookstore Amazon.com and through Exit's partner organisation in the US, Exit International US Ltd.

Subject to ongoing media scrutiny, most recently in David Marr's best-selling Quarterly Essay 'His Master's Voice - the Corruption of Public Debate Under Howard', 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' has entered its 3rd printing in the US, replete with colour photos. With an e-Version due for release in late 2007, future prospects for this book are indeed positive.

To date, the book has attracted support from surprising sources, including 'Australian Penthouse', while being roundly condemned by critics from within the medical establishment. The book's Australian demise was a highly party political decision on the part of the Australian Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, a decision lauded by the Head of the Australian Christian Lobby, Jim Wallace. Thanks to the Internet, and the presence of countries like the USA that jealously protect freedom of speech, this ground-breaking book is guaranteed to live on, even if that does mean importing it into this country illegally from overseas.



Book burning in Canberra



I Bequeath the Python

Exit International took an innovative step this year, supporting one of our members in publishing their first book. In April 2007, Gold Coast Exit Chapter Coordinator Elaine Arch-Rowe launched 'I Bequeath the Python'.

This invaluable end-of-life planning guide came about after an impromptu discussion between Elaine and her adult daughter. Knowing her mother was involved in the Voluntary Euthanasia movement and aware that a commitment to VE involves planning ahead, Elaine's daughter warned that she didn't really know what her mother would expect from her after she was gone.

This conversation got Elaine thinking. How many of us, she thought, avoid writing down our wishes, of making clear what we'd like to see happen after we're gone. And she wasn't just talking about the lucky person who'd get the pet python. What about funeral planning? What about the bills? Who is going to tell the Council I'm no longer here? And what if I want to donate my body to science? How would anyone know that this is something I'd even considered?



Since its publication, 'I Bequeath the Python' has become Exit's best-selling publication. Priced at only \$15, 'the Python' is an amusing, informative booklet. Elaine says it was her intention to encourage users to write notes in the document. "I wanted 'I Bequeath the Python' to be used by people to help them organise their lives (and deaths). Since creating 'the Python', I know my daughter is relieved that she will not have to second-guess my wishes."



Elaine Arch-Rowe with Philip Nitschke

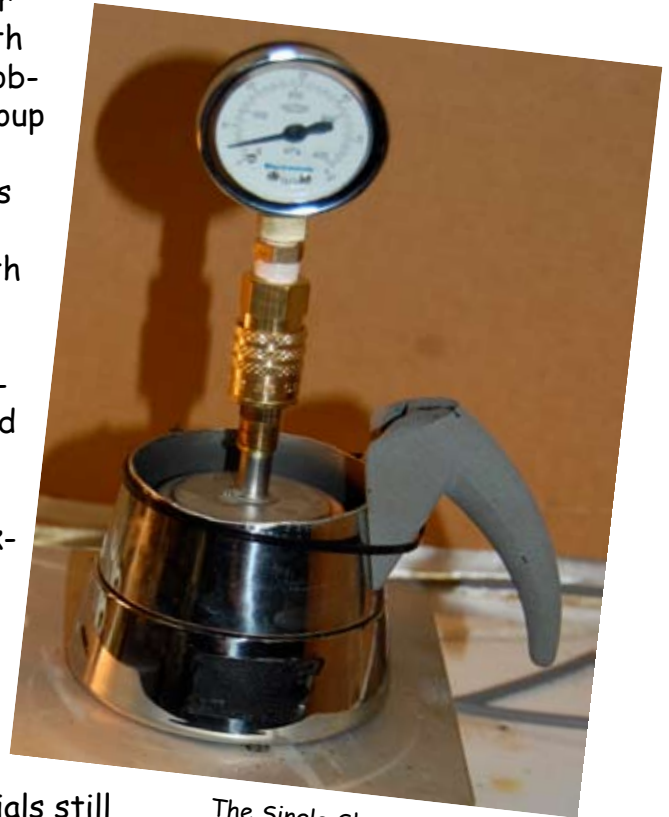
In 2008, Exit hopes to turn 'I Bequeath the Python' into a more formal publication so that its useful information and tips can assist people everywhere to get organised, not just those in the Voluntary Euthanasia movement.

Of her first publishing experience Elaine says it was "great fun and hugely rewarding. Exit's support with 'the Python' was so welcome. There is nothing like professional design and an eye for detail to turn a casual idea dreamed up in my kitchen into such a terrific planning guide."

Exit Research & Development

The past year has been a challenging one for Exit in terms of our ongoing involvement with the Peaceful Pill project. From the early problems experienced by the pioneering first group known as the 'Peanut Project', to the new, simplified method of the 'Single Shot', Exit's Peaceful Pill Project has moved forward despite the inevitable setbacks associated with such ambitious research.

The Peaceful Pill project has been a collaborative effort on an unprecedented scale, and drawn on the expertise of Exit members from such disparate fields as chemistry, nursing, boilermaking and teaching. By working together, members of Exit have developed new ways to create barbiturate-based lethal mixtures, using recipes which will one day be available to all rational elderly people who seek them.



The Single Shot Pot

With assay results from the Single Shot trials still pending at the time of press, Exit is quietly confident that 2008 will be the year that this 5 year project bears fruit, with the first testing and use of a reliable stable substance that will provide a peaceful death at a time and place of one's choosing. We also expect the barbiturate testing and assay service to begin operation in 2008, a program that will be of great use to all those acquiring end of life drugs.

While the Peaceful Pill is the flagship R&D of Exit International, the organisation has also worked hard to refine and improve the technology of Helium and its use with the Exit Bag. With many chapters conducting regular practical workshops focusing on gas flow techniques, Exit continues to see value in ensuring that the Helium method is as practical, simple and reliable as possible.

The past 12 months has seen the replacement of Jamec fittings by the more widely available Ryco brand of brass connections to make the now standard helium gas flow fitting. These fittings guarantee simple gas flow control, making the whole process easier for the individual seeking a peaceful death, and removes the need for assistance. Looking forward, Exit is aware that there may be some tightening in the availability of disposable Helium, a trend that we will monitor and report on throughout the coming year.



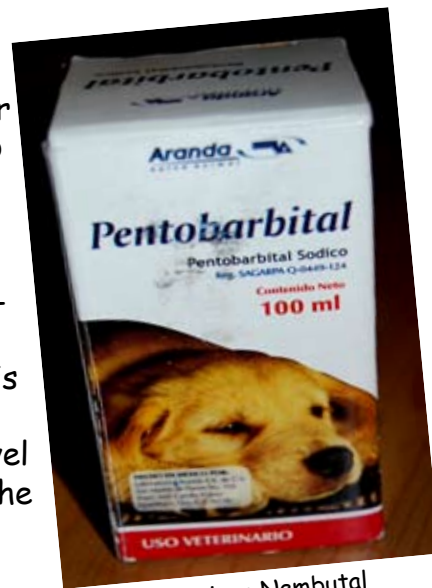
Monitoring the pressure

International Activities

Mexico

The past 12 months have been a watershed year with approximately 50 members visiting Mexico as part of the Exit tour program to purchase their Nembutal.

Amid constant rumours that the over-the-counter sales of barbiturates has all but dried up, Exit members continue to demonstrate that this is not true, with no reports of failure from the tours, or from individuals making their own travel plans - as long as the information provided in 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' is used as a guide.



Mexican Nembutal

In terms of the drug's importation back into Australia or New Zealand, Exit knows of no cases where the drug has been intercepted by authorities when members return.



Mexican Vet Shop

In 2006 - 2007 the price sought for a sealed, sterile, 100ml bottle of Nembutal rose, now ranging from US\$35 to US\$75. This suggests that some profiteering has commenced at some of the better known outlets. But even a price of US\$100/ bottle (list price ~ A\$50) is still very good value given the peace of mind that this drug can bring.

With the new 3rd edition of 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' containing colour photos (available from Exit International US) and exploratory field trips to several more Mexican cities forthcoming, Exit is confident that the overseas supply of this drug will continue, even if the price is slightly higher than in past years. The trick in reliably obtaining this important drug is knowing exactly what to ask for in foreign countries. On this note, Exit will continue to monitor foreign labels and branding and make these results available via the 2008 edition of 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' and the new Exit Workshop DVD.



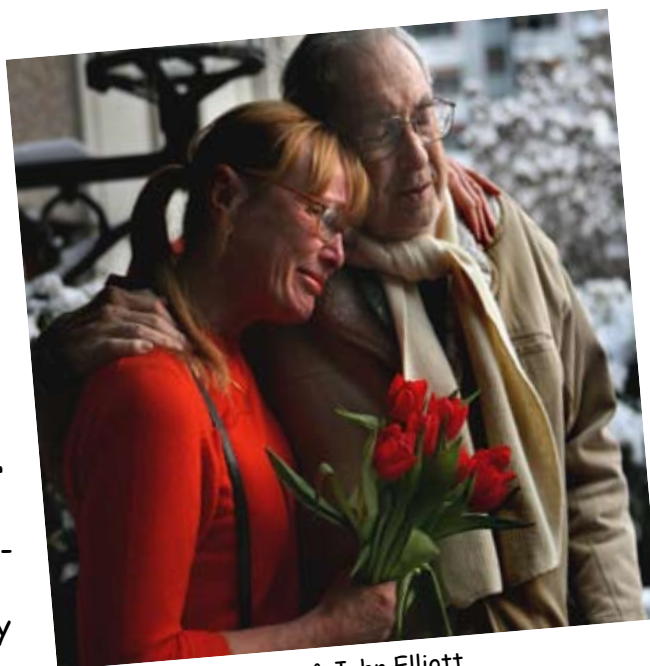
Trolley Line from downtown San Diego

International Activities

Switzerland

In January 2007, Exit was privileged to accompany Angelika and John Elliott to Switzerland where John made use of the Dignitas service headed by human rights lawyer, Ludwig Minelli.

Dying of Multiple Myeloma, Dr John Elliott was one of the few Australians able to use the service offered by Dignitas. The experience of sharing John's peaceful, dignified death is one that Exit will not forget. The trip also served another important purpose giving us a first hand account of the Swiss experience and enabling specific information, especially relevant to people from countries a long way from Switzerland, to be reported in the 3rd edition of The Peaceful Pill Handbook.



Angelika & John Elliott

By reporting on the complicated procedure required of foreigners by the Swiss authorities, Exit has been able to assist others to make the decision about whether or not to apply to Dignitas. John Elliott's experience also demonstrated the significant lead time that is needed - to ensure that the paperwork is in order and acceptable to both Dignitas and the Swiss bureaucracy - by those applying.

Another positive outcome of John Elliott's generosity of spirit and his willingness to share his experience is that the story thrust the right-to-die issue back into the media headlines. The front page coverage of the story by both the 'Sydney Morning Herald' and the 'Melbourne Age' led to considerable media interest in VE over the following months.

John and Angelika Elliott were incredibly brave in choosing to share their story publicly. As private citizens, it is rare for a person who is dying to be so committed to social change that they are prepared to put this ahead of their own personal needs. In this regard, John's story will be remembered for years to come.

In order to create a record of the Elliott's experience in Zurich, Exit commissioned a short documentary by film-maker Steve

Hopes titled 'Flight to Zurich' which Exit has made available for public viewing on the video website YouTube.com as well as showing it at Exit workshops. Extracts from this film were also used by a number of national television stations when reporting on the story.



Exit Conferences

In 2006-2007, Exit hosted two major events: the 'Remembering ROTI' one day conference in Sydney on Bob Dent Day 2006 (22 September) and the 'National Day of Shame Freedom Ride' to Canberra on the 10th anniversary of the overturning of the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act (25- 26 March 2007).

With both conferences co-hosted by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of NSW, the events were an appropriate way to mark the ten years that have passed since that time in 2006 when Australia led the world in the area of end-of-life choices.

At the Remembering ROTI conference, Exit was delighted to have speakers such as then Minister for Immigration, Amanda Vanstone as well as Democrats and Australian Greens Leaders Senators Lynne Allison and Bob Brown respectively. Six months later in Canberra at the Day of Shame, Exit joined with these Senators and the Hon. Dr Carmen Lawrence of the ALP, to conclude the memorial year's activities by presenting to these politicians the thousands of messages contained in 15 Condolence Books (see photo below right).

Over 200 people attended the National Day of Shame Memorial dinner which was held at the National Museum in Canberra and marked the end of the memorial year. With the ABC's Phillip Adams as guest speaker, conference evaluation forms identified the dinner as a highlight of the two-day event.

Exit would like to thank the ACT organising committee who took much of the responsibility for the logistics of the Canberra event and the VE Society of NSW for their financial support of the first conference, Remembering ROTI. While the National Day of Shame ran at a financial loss for Exit, event evaluations suggest that this was still an extremely worthwhile way to mark this significant event in Australian history.



Marching in Sydney



Newcastle Chapter Coordinator Vince Phelan



Presenting the Condolence books

Remembering ROTI - Sydney 22 September 2006



with Sen Lynne Allison & Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence



Dawn Poynter with the police presence



Jacquie Connolly



Sydney Street March

National Day of Shame - Canberra 25-27 March 2007



with Phillip Adams



Marshall Perron - speeches in Glebe Park



Presenting Condolence Books at Parliament House



Jill Kleinman leading 'Advance Euthanasia Fair'

Nancy's Friends

In its second year of operation, the Nancy's Friends network continued to experience great demand from all states and territories of Australia. The need for this service and the number of Travellers wanting help has occasionally exceeded the supply so that a Friend has sometimes not been able to be provided.

In June 2006, Nancy's Friends held its second training weekend, this time in Melbourne. With more than 20 participants, a total of 33 Nancy's Friends are now active in providing support and friendship to ~100 travellers Australia-wide.

The most common reason members of Exit seek Nancy's Friends is for the chance to ask questions about their end-of-life options. A second common need is the chance to talk openly about practical end of life issues without fear of censure. According to Nancy's Friends coordinator, Lindy Boyd, the Nancy's Friends program has been especially effective in filling the gap of extended waiting periods between a person requesting a private visit with Philip Nitschke and the visit being able to take place. In this regard, a Nancy's Friend has been able to quickly step in and provide information, reassurance and allay the person's fear or anxiety about the road ahead. Often the visit is of so much help to the Traveller that the need for a private visit no longer exists.

One important change that has been made to the Nancy's Friends program in 2007 was the decision to ask for a donation. With \$400 the average donation for a private visit and the Nancy's Friends program needing to cover its costs (staff salary, training expenses), the decision was initially received with some hesitancy although all Friends acknowledge that Exit cannot underwrite all costs.

Those applying for the service have accepted the request for an additional donation. This change of delivery has ensured that the service is well placed to expand in 2008 providing more Friends in more places.

Nancy's Friends expects to conduct its third training weekend in Sydney in early 2008 with a fresh intake of trainee Friends from all states of Australia.



nancy's friends



Nancy's Friends in Canberra

Exit Chapters

In 2007, Exit's local Chapter network has grown significantly in what is a vote of confidence in the new, decentralised operation of the national organisation.

In this period, new Chapters have been established in Dorrigo, Townsville, Hervey Bay and the Central Coast of New South Wales. Chapters have been renewed with new leaders in Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide. Future chapters currently under consideration include Orange, Albury/ Wodonga, Bendigo and Victor Harbour.

The core activity of chapters has been the provision of regular meetings at the local level. While some chapters have focused on providing members with technical workshops on issues such as Helium, others have concentrated on looking in detail at setting up support groups to investigate the feasibility of a Peaceful Pill manufacturing venture. In addition, some Chapters such as the Brisbane group have begun producing their own regular newsletter to complement Exit's official monthly publication, Deliverance.

Each Chapter operates in its own way and in its own time and assists members by providing them with local contacts and answers to their queries, filling a much-needed gap. The Chapters' expenses have been covered from core Exit funds.

In 2008, Exit expects to extend its website to allow up-to-the minute Chapter news and views to be included, ensuring that Exit is truly the interactive support organisation it aims to be. At the time of press, Exit welcomes Julia Harrison and Janine Gebert as new joint coordinators of the Adelaide chapter, Paul Scott to Hervey Bay, Syd and Eric Collins to Townsville, Al Hartley to Dorrigo, Barbara Hasslacher to the Central Coast chapter and Keith Anderson to Hobart.

On behalf of all members, Exit thanks its Chapter Coordinators for the invaluable service they perform for the good of the organisation.



Angelika Minner (Bris)



Madeleine Tilche (Syd)



Vince Phelan (Newcastle)



Mike Harris (Hobart)



Pat Scrivenor (Melb)



Carol O'Neil (Perth)



David Swanton (Canberra)



Avis Jeffares (Woll)



Bron Norman (Sun. Coast)



Rob Cane (Melb) Elaine Arch-Rowe (Gold Coast)

Exit Media

The past year has been important for Exit with considerable media coverage generated on the issue of end-of-life choices and voluntary euthanasia. In this period Exit also attracted important international coverage beginning with the World Federation Conference in Toronto Canada where national TV and the newspaper, 'The Globe & Mail' covered the launch of 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook' in September 2006.

Back in Australia, 2007 began with the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers sending a journalist with John Elliott and Exit to Dignitas in Zurich. Both newspapers devoted front page coverage to this event. This was followed with further media, both here and overseas, of the Federal government's decision to ban 'The Peaceful Pill Handbook'. The decision by the NZ Chief Censor to follow Australia's lead drew similar attention to the VE issue in New Zealand. The arrest, bail and forthcoming Supreme Court trial of former Sydney Exit Chapter Coordinator Caren Jenning also attracted attention.

In 2006 - 2007 Dr Nitschke made several appearances on the 'Mornings with Kerri-Anne' show on Channel 9, in addition to 'Sunday Sunrise', 'ABC TV News', the '7.30 Report' and 'SBS Insight'. Other Exit members appeared on 'Mornings with Dave and Kim' (Channel 10). A media highlight of the year was the decision by '4 Corners' to revisit the Voluntary Euthanasia issue, for the first time in 10 years. This wide-ranging program titled 'Final Call' led to a marked increase in Exit membership and re-focused attention on the next stage of the Peaceful Pill Project.

Internationally, Exit's activities have attracted a good deal of media coverage, especially on the issue of the Peaceful Pill and Australian censorship of the Handbook. Interviews were given and stories ran in Russia, Poland, the UK, France, Germany, Canada, India, Malaysia, Japan, China and New Zealand in print, radio, TV and the Internet.



Dr Nitschke speaking to the media outside Caren Jenning's bail hearing in Sydney in April



with Kerri-Anne Kennerley & Angelika Elliott on Channel 9, March



Manfred Frese speaking to the 4 Corners team

Financial Report 2007

Final Exit (Australia) Ltd
ACN 102 986 005

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007

	This Year \$	Last Year \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	65,445	68,394
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>65,445</u>	<u>68,394</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant & equipment	21,378	25,739
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	21,378	25,739
TOTAL ASSETS	86,823	94,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>86,823</u>	<u>94,133</u>
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	86,823	94,133
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>86,823</u>	<u>94,133</u>

Profit & Loss Statement For year ended 30 June 2007

	This Year \$	Last Year \$
INCOME		
Interest received	2,522	2,265
Donations	470,582	356,352
	<u>473,104</u>	<u>358,617</u>
EXPENSES		
Bank Charges	6,874	4,621
Communications	139,566	94,331
Depreciation	6,961	6,626
Legal & Administrative services	90,608	76,690
Motor Vehicle Expenses	13,000	8,381
Repairs & Maintenance	24,831	31,866
Salaries & Wages	105,156	98,503
Travel & Accommodation	93,418	76,951
	<u>480,414</u>	<u>397,969</u>
Loss before income tax	<u>(7,310)</u>	<u>(39,352)</u>



Exit Structure

Board of Directors

Dr Philip Nitschke
Director & Company Secretary

Mr Vincent Phelan
Director

Ms Kerri Dennis
Director

Exit Secretariat

Founder & Director
Dr Philip Nitschke

Executive Director
Dr Fiona Stewart

National Coordinator
Ms Kerri Dennis

Exit Reception
Ms Amanda McClure

Nancy's Friends

Coordinator
Ms Lindy Boyd

Chapter Coordinators

NSW & ACT

Vincent Phelan (Newcastle)
Madeleine Tilche (Sydney)
Al Hartley (Dorrigo)
Barbara Hasslacher (Central Coast)
Avis Jeffares (Wollongong)
David Swanton (Canberra)

NT

Amanda McClure (Darwin)

QLD

Angelika Minner (Brisbane)
Bronley Norman (Sunshine Coast)
Elaine Arch-Rowe (Gold Coast)
Eric & Syd Collins (Townsville)

SA

Janine Gebert (Adelaide)
Julia Harrison (Adelaide)

TAS

Keith Anderson (Hobart)

VIC

Rob Cane (Melbourne)
Pat Scrivenor (Mornington Peninsula)

WA

Carol O'Neil (Perth)

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headquarters in Darwin Australia.

ABN 96 102 986 005
ACN 102 986 005

EXCLUSIVE

Let Bryant
kill himself,
Nitschke
tells forum

My name is Dr John Elliott and I'm to die, with my head held high

EUTHANASIA JULIE-ANNE DAVIES

Exit strategy

The anguished debate over euthanasia has been reignited as its champion hits the headlines at



SHOWDOWN Dr Philip Nitschke is pushing for drug-testing equipment and his banned bo

people who have old prescription drugs who have bought Nembutal overseas but unsure it's the real thing," he told *The Australian*. "We also have 20 members who have made their own version of the drug and we have some assurances that it's going to work." To date, Exit has used containers. But, Nitschke says, it's difficult for the obvious legal reasons. "It can also be tricky for members who are asked to...

Kiwis in death drug trip to Mexico

'Dr Death' leads group of Kiwis to buy lethal liquid

Death 'tourist' plans her exit

Police won't quiz Nitschke

POLICE will not pursue Dr Philip Nitschke for an interview about an alleged mercy killing by a member of his euthanasia support group, Exit International.

Police who investigated the death of Graeme Wylie, 71, at Cammeray in March 2006 yesterday rejected reports they planned to interview Dr Nitschke when he files into Sydney on Monday.

for an interview a year about the circumstances of Wylie's death.

Dr Nitschke's lawyer informed police the following month that their request was "respectfully declined", North Sydney Detective Inspector Peter Houlihan said. Det Insp Houlihan...

Activists fight for right to die with dignity

Mercy killing murder charge hits out at death law

Euthanasia campaigner and dead pilot's partner accused

Illegal book heads through internet gateway

New life for book of death

Les Kennedy, David Braithwaite and Ben Cubby

A VOCAL euthanasia advocate has been charged with helping a Sydney woman murder her partner, a former Qantas pilot suffering from dementia, with a lethal drug overdose.

Caren Jennings, 74, and Shirley Justins, 58, were refused bail yesterday after being charged with killing Justin's partner, 71-year-old Graeme William Wylie. They are believed to be the first murder charges linked to an alleged mercy killing in NSW. But Jennings may not live to see trial. The former teacher and Philip



Shirley Justins and Caren Jennings in court. Illustration by...

Dr Nitschke was in Mexico City when the Herald contacted him yesterday. He said he was available to be interviewed at the circum...

Husband wanted to die



PAINFUL DEATH ... Jill Kleinman with a picture of her husband, Darryl, who died of cancer in 2000.

Wife tried to end the pain



All-clear: Dr Nitschke's book

Brisbane airport under Customs regulations that make documents that instruct in or incite suicide prohibited imports.

"Clearly, the federal Government wants to have them destroyed," Dr Nitschke said. "We're very happy the umpire has said they are OK."

He said he now planned for the book to be in stores by next month.

"We won't make the Christmas rush," he said.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Chris Ellison said the books

were seized according to laws which came into effect in September 2002 that prohibited "absolutely" devices designed to be used to assist suicide and documents that instruct in or promote their use.

Customs also seized 69 pamphlets in Brisbane but returned them after they were assessed as not meeting the criteria of prohibited imports.

"The goods were not concealed," the spokesman said.

The decision to allow the book to be sold under the category-one classification was made despite objections of some board members who believed it should be banned under the anti-suicide-promotion laws.

Lecturer in law at the University of Western Sydney Katrina George last night condemned the publication of *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* as offering the elderly, sick and vulnerable very poor choices.

"It provides ready access to suicide methods," she said.

"It is a sad day when the best we can offer the sick and suffering is a do-it-yourself suicide manual. A truly compassionate strategy would provide improved access to and understanding of palliative care and expanded psychiatric services."

Euthanasia advocates make coffee pot deadly

AUSTRALIAN euthanasia advocates have modified an ordinary coffee pot that they say will enable the terminally ill to concoct a banned suicide drug



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