

e-Deliverance

A Peaceful Death is Everybody's Right

November

Exit International

2007

Attorney General Threatens to Close Exit Workshops

As the flagship activity of Exit International. Exit workshops have recently experienced a marked surge in popularity with groups of over 100 participants now commonplace in capital cities all over Australia.

It is perhaps not surprising then that the Attorney General has selected this time to threaten, with closure, this remarkably successful series alleging that the workshops may break Australian censorship laws.

In a letter received by Exit at 4.30pm on Friday 12 October, the Attorney General sought to remind Exit Director, Philip Nitschke, that "a person must not sell or deliver a publication classified RC (maximum penalty of \$26,400 or imprisonment for 2 years)."

The letter continues: "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

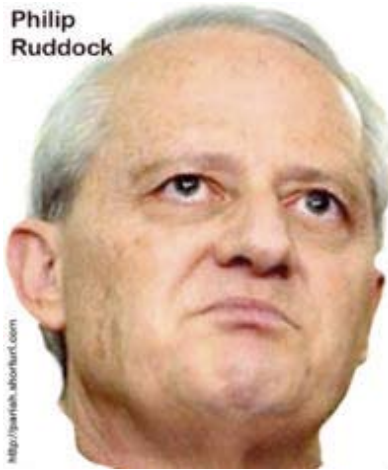
(sections 6 and 15) (unless the film is exempt from classification). Once again, the workshops may be potentially in breach of classification laws.

"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.

The letter was signed by a representative of the Attorney General's Department.

As this newsletter goes to press a second letter has been received, this time from the Queensland Government. Picking up on the Attorney General's concerns, the compliance division of the Queensland Government's Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development seeks further information as to whether the advice provided is "factually correct. If you dispute the information supplied to this office please provide an explanation and/or evidence to support your position ... within 10 working days."

Philip
Ruddock



This Edition

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • AG Threatens Closure of Exit Workshops | - Page 1 |
| • Official Menzies Campaign Launch | - Page 2 |
| • Menzies Campaign Update - As the Days Tick | - Page 3 |
| • Candidates Debate Iraq War | - Page 4 |
| • Enough Rope Ends Year on a High | - Page 4 |
| • Between the Dying & Dead to become Feature Film | - Page 5 |
| • Exit Director to Speak at Woodford Folk Festival | - Page 5 |
| • Exitorial | - Page 5 |
| • Exit Donation + Exit Shop Order Form | - Page 6 |

AG Threatens Exit Workshops (cont)

Since receiving both letters, Philip Nitschke has again sought legal advice on how best to ensure the continuation of the Exit workshop program. This advice is pending.

When asked about the notices, Philip expressed a degree of resignation about both letters and the implied threats contained therein, saying that he was “not surprised.”

“It is like David Marr said in his *Quarterly Essay*. When a government makes a decision to limit the flow of information they will go about their business in a highly systematic way.

“First the Territory’s VE law was taken away, then the Customs Act was altered. In early 2006 the Suicide Related Materials Offences Act was introduced preventing end of life information even being discussed by phone, fax, internet or email. Earlier this year *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* was banned and now our workshop program is under attack.

“While it is certainly unnerving not knowing if and when to expect a police raid, we are unlikely to put our workshops on hold. There are too many older people who consider it their right to know, and who are not prepared to kowtow to government censorship. It will be interesting to see if the Federal Government is prepared to move against these elderly Australians.

“We have a heavy schedule of Exit workshops right up until Christmas this year. We also have a considerable backlog of workshops that have had to be postponed due to the Federal Election” said Philip Nitschke.

“We plan to commence our 2008 program of workshops in late February. These workshops will be open to the public, provided participants join Exit at the door on the day.

A complete program of workshops for the first half of 2008 will be published in the February edition of *Deliverance*.

Official Launch of Menzies Campaign

In front of a crowd of over 100 supporters, Philip Nitschke’s 2007 Menzies Federal Election campaign was launched at Templestowe RSL on Monday 12 November.

said that it was worse than just disliking Kevin Andrews but that he detested him for what he had done to people like himself.

With guest speakers including Kep Enderby (former Attorney General), Angelika Elliott (widow of Sydney doctor John Elliott) and mesothelioma sufferer Don Flounders, the campaign presented a mix of passion and compassion.

Mr Enderby outlined the role of Kevin Andrews in the demise of the Northern Territory’s ROTI law 10 years ago, while Angelika Elliott spoke of the hardship of her very sick husband having to travel half way round the world to die with dignity. Don Flounders declared himself a victim of Kevin Andrews and drew audience applause when he



Don Flounders speaking at the Launch

Each speaker told his or her story of why it is so important that Kevin Andrews (and his like of politicians) are taken on by the likes of Exit Director Philip Nitschke.

Amidst helium-filled balloons and proud wearers of Exit’s election rosettes (purple + white with the word “Choice” - see the last page order form), the Templestowe RSL was in celebratory mood.

Immediately following the launch Philip hosted a light lunch of sandwiches and champagne, concluding the day with the fourth Melbourne Workshop for the year.

07 Menzies Campaign Update

As the Days Tick Down...

As the days tick down to polling day, the Menzies campaign team is stretched to the limit in its efforts to mount the most powerful and effective campaign against Kevin Andrews.

Since the October edition of *Deliverance* there has been both positive and negative news on the Campaign front. The bad news is that Kevin Andrews and Family First won the Number 1 and Number 2 spots respectively on the Ballot Card for the electorate of Menzies.

The ordering on the Ballot Card presents little joy for the 2007 VE Menzies Campaign with Philip being allotted the Number 4 spot, which follows the Greens at Number 3. Philip is, himself, followed by the ALP at Number 5, with the Australian Democrats filling the final 6th spot. The Menzies campaign's HTV Card allots pref-



The Menzies ballot draw in Ringwood on 2 November

erences to the Greens, and the Australia Democrats in this order, with Kevin Andrews last.

This decision was made because these are the only two political parties that have a favourable position on the issue of end of life choices and Voluntary Euthanasia law reform.

It is of note where the other candidates have placed Philip on the Ballot card: predictably Kevin Andrews has placed Philip last, while the ALP has placed Philip 4th, behind the Greens and Democrats, but ahead of Family First and Kevin Andrews.

As we go to press the Greens have an open ticket (with no stated preferences). With the Green How to Vote card simply having a 1 by their candidate David Ellis, this card is likely to lead to a high informal vote. The Australian Democrats' preferences remain unknown.

VOTE
1
Philip
NITSCHKE

- 6 ANDREWS, Kevin
Liberal Party
- 5 SMITHIES, Ken
Family First
- 2 ELLIS, David
Australian Greens
- 1 **NITSCHKE, Philip**
INDEPENDENT
- 4 CAMPBELL, Andrew
Australian Labor Party
- 3 WISE, Damien
Australian Democrats

You **MUST** put a number in every square for your vote to be valid.

**Your INDEPENDENT
Voice for Choice**

Authorised by Lindy Boyd, 1st Floor, 95 Macedon Rd Lwr Templestowe 3106.
Printed by Art Offset Pty Ltd, 43 Claxton St, Reservoir East 3105

Contact Us

Exit International

PO Box 37781 Darwin NT 0821 Australia
ph 1300 10 EXIT (3948) fax 02-8905-9249
contact@exitinternational.net

Donate to Exit

Exit relies on donations to fund its workshop,
private visits and R&D programs
Bequest forms can be obtained from Exit.

Candidates Debate Iraq War

In the first campaign debate to be held with most of the Menzies Federal Election Candidates present (the Family First candidate, Ken Smithies, did not attend), the Minister for Immigration faced a hostile audience in his attempt to uphold Government policy in regard to the Iraq war.

Hosted by a group called 'Unity for Peace' and chaired by barrister

Kurt Esser, Philip Nitschke spoke first of the five candidates and chose to focus upon the issue of the refugees that have been created as

a result of the war. Philip drew comparisons between Australia's treatment of refugees and that of Sweden who is the leader in the repatriation of people who have been displaced as a result of the Iraq war.



Hon Kevin Andrews MHR & Dr Philip Nitschke

During the debate Dr Nitschke challenged Mr Andrews 'lack of compassion' for those less fortunate than himself. Of all the speakers it was Kevin Andrews who

showed most exasperation with the questions asked of him by the audience, as well as with his co-speakers' responses to the issues debated.

A full transcript of the evening is available at:

<http://www.bigfooty.com/forum/showthread.php?p=9349553>

'Enough Rope' Ends Year on a High

In a decision that demanded the prior approval of the ABC Standards Committee, Andrew Denton's *Enough Rope* program has chosen to screen his recent interview with Exit Director, Philip Nitschke in the coveted election week timeslot.

Filmed in recent months, this wide-ranging interview covered Philip's historical involvement in Voluntary Euthanasia as well as delving into many aspects of his personal life.

Speaking about the experience of being interviewed by Andrew Denton, Philip said he was pleased that he had participated in the show, given its excellent reputation.

"Of course it is the always directors who have the final say of what makes it to the TV screen every Monday, but I was certainly confident

that I would be treated fairly by the Andrew Denton team.



Enough Rope host Andrew Denton with Philip Nitschke

"This is a TV show that I've watched mature as its popularity has grown. I'm glad to have been asked to be a guest and that the issue of VE has been brought into the limelight given the myriad celebrity interviews that grace our TVs.

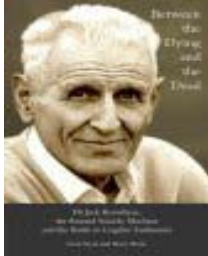
Of most interest, however, was the decision by *Enough Rope* to screen Philip's episode right in the middle of the election.

"It is fairly tough for an independent candidate like myself to maintain a profile

in a Federal Election campaign and I'm very pleased that it has been myself and not Kevin Andrews who has been given the opportunity to remind the Australian public what it means to fight for a cause you so passionately believe in.

New Film on Life of Dr Jack Kevorkian

Exit is delighted to be able to bring you news 'hot off the press' about the deal that has been signed in Hollywood for a feature film to be made about the remarkable life of Dr Jack Kevorkian.



The film will be based on the book *Between the Dying and the Dead* by Harry Wylie and Exit International US President, Neal Nicol.

According to Exit Director, Philip Nitschke, the film deal will give a major lift to the international profile of Voluntary Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. "Dr Kevorkian is a remarkable human being. Criticised by so many, I hope the film vindicates what Jack did and the way that he did it. When the *British Medical Journal* editorial described him as a medical hero in 1996, I really thought 'about time!'"

At the time of press, Exit has 5 copies of *Between the Dying and the Dead* in stock. The order form is on the last page of *Deliverance*.

Exit Director to Speak at Woodford Folk Festival

In what must count as one of the more innovative invitations, Philip Nitschke has been invited to appear at the 2007 Woodford Folk Festival.

As one of Australia's largest music festivals - in 2006 over 125,000 people attended - Dr Nitschke will be speaking twice on different issues associated with a person's right to choose.



On Saturday 29 December, Philip will speak at 1pm on the topic of "Do we have the right to be tired of life?" On Monday 31 December Philip will speak at 4pm on "Why end of life choice may help you live longer and happier!"

More information including ticket sales can be found at <http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com>

Exitorial

Life in Melbourne in the month of November has become frantic as the 2007 Menzies Federal Election Campaign has gone into full swing.

Basing myself each day at Campaign HQ above the real estate office of the Macedon Square Shopping Centre, the weeks have been flown by, filled with relentless but essential tasks such as: designing the weekly advertisements for local newspapers, preparing the mailouts of the fortnightly newsletter for campaign donors, speaking at various local functions and answering the never-ending stream of phone calls from Exit members and the public alike. We have even found time to brand the Exit car for the campaign (a photo will be featured in the December edition of *Deliverance*).

Given the strength of the campaign we have run, we are very much looking forward to election day. As we go to press we expect to staff all 32 polling booths for the entirety of polling day. We are enormously grateful to the many volunteers who have helped make the campaign so successful. We remain quietly optimistic that our primary vote will be reflective of the effort we have put in to challenging Kevin Andrews.

The campaign will be holding an election night party at the Bulleen Senior Citizens centre. Everyone is welcome to help us celebrate the election result.

On another equally serious front, the month of November has seen both the Federal government and the police of several states take a renewed interest in Exit workshops. In the past week, large workshops have been held in Melbourne and Adelaide.

For the Adelaide workshop on Tuesday 13 November, I was informed by the Licensing and Compliance branch of the South Australian police that they would attend. In the end they did not. Apart from the 50+ participants who came along, the media attended en masse (we had 4 reporters, 2 photographers and 3 TV camera crews).

The Adelaide workshop received extensive coverage, all of which helps to spread the Exit message and expose the Federal government's ludicrous attempt to use censorship to control access to end of life information.

Looking forward, there will be one final edition of *Deliverance* before the holiday period. The result of the election will of course be our focus.

Philip Nitschke

