

# e-Deliverance

*A Peaceful Death is Everybody's Right*

February

Exit International

2009

## IQ2 Debate Brings Encouraging Victory for VE

In front of an audience of 1200, the IQ2 debate at Sydney's City Recital Hall on Tuesday 3 February saw the affirmative team win the night with a resounding victory.

In a debate titled 'Should we Legalise Euthanasia', a pro-choice team of Greens' Senator Bob Brown, former Chancellor of the Australian National University Professor Peter Baume AC and Exit Director Dr Philip Nitschke won the night with an audience vote of 75% in favour, 20% against and 5% undecided. And this in the face of the audience being stacked with a mass 70-seat booking from Right to Life NSW.

The night began in a civilised manner with Philip opening proceedings, speaking about the *Rights of the Terminally Ill (ROTI) Act*; in particular his experience of the law in the Northern Territory along with its benefits and pitfalls. Philip was followed by a recent speaker at the National Colloquium for Catholic Bioethicists, palliative care GP Maria



Professor Peter Baume with Dr Philip Nitschke at the pre-debate briefing at City Recital Hall Sydney

Dr Cigolini was followed by Senator Brown, who presented real-life patient case studies of primary care physician, Dr David Leaf (who later made a statement from the audience in support of the affirmative team), to argue why a law on euthanasia is the only civilised way forward.

The fourth speaker was former Howard Government Health Minister, Tony Abbott, who attempted to disentangle his view on voluntary euthanasia from his Catholic faith. Mr Abbott asked the affirmative team to give him the respect to believe that when he voted in favour of the Kevin Andrews Bill in

1996 (to overturn the NT's legislation), he did so because of his personal convictions, not because he was a puppet of the Catholic Church.

Professor Peter Baume AC was the fifth speaker and it was his quip that 'dogs and horses have it better than humans' that became the tag-line of the evening and which formed the basis of his opinion article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* the following day.



Cigolini, who argued that most people who consider euthanasia are depressed. She outlined how any move to legalise VE would lead to elder abuse.

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# iQ2 & a Meddling Priest Named Frank

The final speaker was the Jesuit priest, Frank Brennan who was reported in the media as providing a ‘conciliatory tone.’ However, this priest is more meddlesome than the media gives him credit, saving his last punches for his 2-minute reply to audience statements (when no correction was possible). In closing, Father Brennan focused on the Graeme Wylie trial, arguing that the danger of euthanasia is that children are denied the opportunity to say ‘goodbye’ to their parents. He went on to allege that the NT’s *ROTI* Act had been a racist law in that it had alienated the Aboriginal communities of the nation.

What Frank Brennan omitted to mention, of course, was the fact that the *ROTI* law was passed by one vote; that of the sole Aboriginal MP - the Member for Arnhem - Mr Wes Lanhupuy, who stated: ‘I believe a person should have the right to be able to determine what they want if they are of sane mind.’

While pro-lifers like Abbott wear their faith on their sleeve, the *modus operandi* of Frank Brennan is far more cunning. That Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has recently appointed Father Brennan to chair the National Human Rights Consultation Committee is of particular concern given Brennan’s anti-abortion, anti-stem cell research and anti-VE positions.



St James Ethics Centre Executive Director & Chair of the Debate - Dr Simon Longstaff



Professor Peter Baume, Senator Bob Brown, Dr Philip Nitschke (left to right)

As background, *The Australian* newspaper reported that in 1996 Brennan ‘attacked a US-style constitutional bill of rights ... He argued that giving judges the final say in weighty moral issues such as abortion and gay rights encouraged frivolous behaviour among politicians, who could safely issue extravagant promises knowing they would be struck down by the courts.’

From Exit’s point of view, one of the main benefits of a constitutionally-enshrined Bill of Rights would be the preservation of a person’s right to free speech. Remember, the Clean Feed (mandatory Internet filtering) trials are currently underway. Just how Exit International will continue to function once our websites are blocked remains to be seen. But the picture in Australia is anything but rosy with the likes of Frank Brennan at the helm.

If you missed the debate, you can still access the podcast on the ABC’s website:

<<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/fora/stories/2009/02/04/2481826.htm>>



Ms Elaine Arch-Rowe & Mrs Angelika Elliott enjoying pre-debate drinks at City Recital Hall

# NO CLEAN FEED

STOP INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN AUSTRALIA

While most people were enjoying their summer break, the Rudd Government has been busy over the new year period with its 6-week trial of a mandatory Net filtering system. The Clean Feed initiative will ban adult Australians' access to a secret blacklist of 1300 websites and over 10,000 other sites that are deemed to contain 'unwanted' content. Worse than this it places Australia on par with China, Nth Korea and Saudi Arabia where government censorship is concerned.

With euthanasia one of the key words touted by Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Communications (the other topics being pornography, online gambling and anorexia), Exit is very concerned about any move to prevent seriously ill and senior Australians access to information about their end of life choices.

One key feature of the proposed system is that there will be no opt-out clause. This means that adult Australians will no longer be able to decide which websites they visit and which they do not. Rather, the Government will possibly decide this for us. The censorship will be *mandatory* and will occur at Internet Service Provider (ISP) level.

According to Colin Jacobs, spokesman for Electronic Frontiers Australia, the most worrying aspect is that 'the definition of inappropriate material has never been well defined.' ... How will the Government resist pressure by Family First or other special interest groups to permanently block material considered by some to be harmful?

## Talking Heads at Toxteth

On Thursday 26 March, everyone is invited to a 'Politics in the Pub' night with Mr Kep Enderby QC and Exit Director Philip Nitschke in the upstairs function room at the Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road, Glebe (cnr Ferry Road). Doors open at 6 for a 6.30pm start.

There are Senior & Pensioner discounts available at the bar but not for sessions. There is, however, a 'buy one get one free' meal deal with reservations essential. The cost of the evening is: \$10. Enquiries to convenors Kate Barton or Helen Randerson on 02-9518-5560 or [katebarton3@optusnet.com.au](mailto:katebarton3@optusnet.com.au)

There are also a myriad of problems with the proposed system. For example, the Government's own research has shown Net speeds slowing by as much as 30%, even under ideal testing conditions. And there are problems with accuracy in that websites that should not be blocked will be blocked with some hard core sites left alone. Finally, there is the issue of cost. In this time of global recession, the initiative has been reported by *The Age* newspaper to be costing the public purse around \$44.2 million.

A quick web search on the Clean Feed trials finds Jim Wallace and the Australian Christian Lobby's pawprints all over the initiative raising new questions about the separation of Church and State. But should we be surprised since, as New-Matilda.com

point out, the ACL's 'vision' sees 'Christian principles and ethics accepted and influencing the way we are governed.'



Australian Christian Lobby CEO Jim Wallace

In 2009, Exit is hoping to launch a virtual meetings program using Internet-based technology making the outcome of the trials of central importance to us. Our planned virtual meetings would enable Exit members in far away places access to real time, workshop-like forums of to up-to-the minute information and, most importantly, Q&A opportunities. This would expand Exit's Workshop program globally.

So, if you feel passionately about deciding what information you want to access on the Web, join the Exit delegation to Senator Stephen Conroy by calling the Melbourne Exit office (see page 4).

### Contact Us

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1300 10 3948 (EXIT) or Melb Office 03 9850 8192  
[contact@exitinternational.net](mailto:contact@exitinternational.net)

### Donate to Exit

Exit relies on donations to fund its meetings/  
workshops, private visits and R&D programs  
Please give generously.

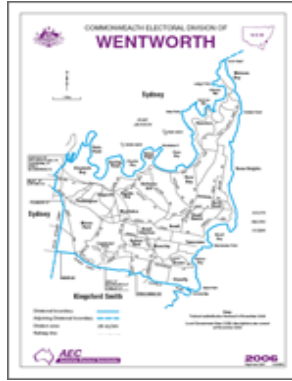
# Join an Exit Delegation & Get to Work for Legislative Change

In 2009, Exit International will be coordinating an ambitious program of member delegations to sitting Members of Parliament at State and Federal levels and in NZ. All too often our politicians are pressured by professional lobby groups whose various agendas drown out the voices of the ordinary citizen. This is especially true with so-called moral issues such as voluntary euthanasia. To ensure your voice is heard, you need to get involved.

The first two Ministers to be approached are Victorian Senator Stephen Conroy and the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Malcolm Turnbull.

As highlighted on page 3 of this newsletter, Senator Conroy is the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. He is also, therefore, the Minister driving the mandatory Net filtering initiative. Unfortunately, Senator Conroy is no friend of VE. Back in 1996, he was one of 12 pro-life Senators (the others included: Brian Harradine, Eric Abetz,

Chris Ellison, and Bill Heffernan to argue that ‘the general moral, philosophical, ethical and social arguments about euthanasia indicate that legalising its practice constitutes ‘dangerous and unwise public policy.’” Senator Conroy voted for the Kevin Andrews Bill which overturned the *ROTI* Act.



If you are a computer user, a defender of free speech and live in Victoria we invite you to come along.

The second Minister to be approached early in the year is Mr Malcolm Turnbull. Following the lead of the late Caren Jenning who lived in the seat of Wentworth for many years and who met with Mr Turnbull while he was still on the backbench, Exit is call-

ing all registered voters in Wentworth to form a delegation to take the Exit message of choice and dignity at the end of life to Mr Turnbull. To register your interest or to coordinate an alternative delegation please call the Melbourne Exit office on 03 9850 8192.

## Forthcoming Chapter Meetings

**BALLINA:** CWA Hall, Tuesday, 26 February at 10 am - Contact Jude on 02-6672-3321.

**BRIBIE ISLAND:** BI RSL, Monday, 16 March at 10am - Contact Geoff on 3408-2497.

**BRISBANE:** Saturday, 28 February at 10am - Contact Angelika on 0431-275-840.

**CENTRAL COAST:** Kincumber Community Centre, Saturday, 28 February at 10am - Contact Bettina on 02-4369-4008.

**FORSTER:** In small Meeting Room, Tuncurry Bowls Club, Thursday, 26 March at 1pm - Contact Leslie on 02-6554-5942.

**DORRIGO:** CWA Rooms, Saturday, 28 February at 3pm - Contact Al on 02-6657-2355.

**DUNEDIN:** 1st floor, Public Library, Dunedin, Sunday, 15 March at 2pm – Contact Paula on 03-471-9955.

**GOLD COAST:** Community Room, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, Tuesday, 10 March at 10 am – Contact Elaine on 0421-796-713.

**LISMORE:** Goonellabah Workers Club Meeting Room, Tuesday, 10 March at 10am - Contact Jude on 02-6672-3321.

**MELBOURNE:** Tuesday 24 February - Contact Rob on 0423-305-788.

**MURWILLIMBAH:** Murwillimbah Bowling Club, Cnr Brisbane & Condong Sts, Wednesday, 11 March at 10 am - Contact Jude on 02-6672-3321.

**NEWCASTLE:** Trades Hall Monday, 2 March at 10.30am - Contact Vincent on 02-4945-1916.

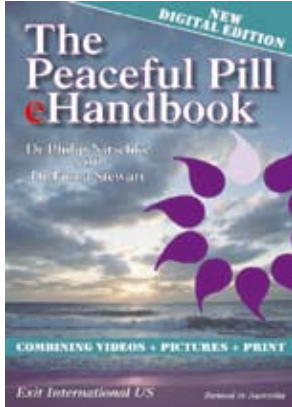
**SUNSHINE COAST:** Kawana Library Meeting Room, Thursday, 19 February at 10am to 12 noon – Contact Bron on 0418-456-507.

**TOWNSVILLE:** Wednesday 18 February – Contact Syd or Eric on 07-4729-0275.

**WELLINGTON:** Pot Luck Lunch at Suzie’s home, Sunday 29 March 2009 at 12 noon. A social gathering, all friends/ family welcome. Contact Suzy on 04-5664 893 for details.

## Video PPeH Gets Nembutal Update

Exit International US Ltd is pleased to announce that the February 09 update to the video edition of the *Peaceful Pill eHandbook* contains an extra 15 pages of detailed, new information on sources of Nembutal both in Mexico and around the world.



While the tourist destination of Tijuana has changed as the prime location of over-the-counter sale of Nembutal, a range of new, safer destinations has emerged. The February update provides new information on the border cities of Nuevo

Progreso, Nuevo Laredo and Juarez, the established tourist destination of Cancun and the Mexico City alternative of Cuernavaca in the adjacent state of Morelos.

For those not wishing to travel as far as South America, new sources of over-the-counter Nembutal have also been located in Bangkok, Thailand and in Beijing, China. Or, if you don't wish to leave home at all, a reliable source of Nembutal over the internet for the first time is also reported.

The video *Peaceful Pill eHandbook* can be purchased for immediate download from [www.peacefulpill.com](http://www.peacefulpill.com). Subscribers to the video edition receive 24 months of updates included in the purchase price of US\$75.

Exit members who already have a copy of the initial print edition of *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* are entitled to a \$25 cash-back on purchasing the video edition. Members should forward proof of purchase to the Exit office in Darwin and a cheque will be sent to you.

If you are not on the Internet, these and other updates will be available to all Exit members as part of the 2009 Exit International workshop program spanning Australia, NZ, the UK and USA. Dates are currently being finalised and will be published in the March edition of *Deliverance*.

## Exitorial

At Exit the year has begun well with an encouraging win in the Intelligence Squared Debate in Sydney. Our opponents were behind the eight ball with the pre-debate audience poll already showing 71% support for the legalisation of Voluntary Euthanasia, rising to 75% after the debate. As so many of you have asked in the past, what kind of mandate does a government need before it will respect the wishes of the electorate?

Until this question is satisfactorily answered with legislation, Exit is launching head-long into our public meetings and workshops program. In 2009 we will be trialing virtual meetings using new Internet technology. This will allow me to meet and speak with more Exit members more often than ever before. Please be assured though that in Australia virtual meetings will never replace face-to-face gatherings.

To this end I'd like to thank those members who came forward with motorhomes for sale and I am pleased to say we have come to an arrangement with a generous member who is prepared to lease their van to Exit on a needs basis for a very reasonable fee.

On a different matter, after a short break earlier this month, I am pleased to announce the first detailed update of the *Peaceful Pill eHandbook*. One big advantage of publishing online is that updates can be made and new information included as soon as it becomes available. In this updated version some 15 pages of new information on the availability of Nembutal in 2009 from several new sources has been included. A new print edition of the *eHandbook* will become available later this year, but the lag time with printing and shipping will always make the online version the most useful for someone wanting to make their end-of life plans.

Also in this edition of *Deliverance* we outline what will be one of Exit's main political activities this year; member delegations to Politicians. For too long lobby groups such as the Australian Christian Lobby have had the ear of politicians. This has to stop. That is why we are calling all interested members to get together and take the opportunity to meet with your elected representatives.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Exit laboratory is nearing completion. This has been a very long road but the end is nigh. Once operational, there will be no looking back. The Exit Peaceful Pill testing kit - a DIY mail-order test pack will soon be a reality, enabling those lucky enough to have old prescriptions drugs or newly-acquired veterinary Nembutal the means to ensure that their drugs are valid, even if they are kept for many years at home under lock and key; just in case they are ever needed.

*Philip Nischke*



# Exit Store

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**I want to join/ rejoin/ donate to Exit International**

*(The average donation to Exit is A\$100-150 which includes a membership fee of \$55 - including GST)*

**\* The Peaceful Pill eHandbook (online video edition) (banned in Australia)**

- available at [www.peacefulpill.com](http://www.peacefulpill.com) for US\$75 (includes 24 months of updates)



**\* The Peaceful Pill Handbook (print edition) (banned in Australia)**

- available from Exit International US Ltd, PO Box 300396, Waterford MI 48330 USA for US\$40 (includes postage worldwide) or from [www.peacefulpill.com](http://www.peacefulpill.com)

***(Use this form to mail order the PPH. Credit Card payments ONLY)***

**\* Killing Me Softly VE and the Road to the Peaceful Pill**  
(by Drs Philip Nitschke & Fiona Stewart)

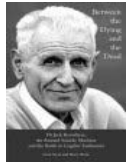
*(International orders, please order online at [exitinternational.net](http://exitinternational.net))*

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