



PRESS RELEASE

Books to Burn in Canberra

A mass book burning reminiscent of 1930s Nazi Germany will be held at 2pm on Monday 26 March 2007 at the Tent Embassy site outside old Australian Parliament House in Canberra.

More than 100 copies of the recently banned *Peaceful Pill Handbook* by Drs Philip Nitschke and Fiona Stewart will be thrown on the fire by 100 elderly and seriously ill supporters of Voluntary Euthanasia in Canberra as part of the National Day of Shame.

This ground-breaking Voluntary Euthanasia guidebook was outlawed in Australia on 24 February 2007 (after receiving a Restricted Classification in Dec 06) as a result of an appeal to the Office of Film and Literature Classification by the Federal Attorney General Phillip Ruddock and Right to Life Australia.

Since mid February it has become illegal to own, distribute, display or loan the book. This is despite the fact that the book sells freely in every other country, with as many as 500 copies selling each week at the online bookstore Amazon.com.

According to author Dr Philip Nitschke, "The banning of The Peaceful Pill Handbook is the most recent step by the Australian government to prevent adult Australians from accessing end of life information. First they overturned the Northern Territory's ground-breaking law 10 years ago, then they banned talking on the telephone. Now they have banned the written word".

"Who was it who said there's not much of a step from banning words to burning the people who wrote them? Free speech in Australia is dead!"

The book burning will form part of the activities of the National Day of Shame which commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Australian Federal Parliament's overturning of the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act of the Northern Territory.

Other activities include a mass choir singing *Advance Euthanasia Fair* (see Exit homepage www.exitinternational.net for the words) on the steps of Parliament House at 10.45am and a Memorial Dinner with national broadcaster Phillip Adams at the National Museum at 7pm.

For further details call:

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