



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**20 JULY 2005**

### **DYING MAN CALLS FOR PEACEFUL PILL**

It has taken former journalist, political advisor, and media manager, Steve Guest, to speak out courageously this week about how it feels to die the death you do not want.

A quintessential Baby Boomer, fifty-eight year old Guest made an impromptu phone call to ABC Radio Melbourne's "Open line" this week where he described in detail his fight with oesophageal cancer and why he believes he deserves the right to die with dignity. With only weeks to live, Steve is rapidly becoming the new face of the Voluntary Euthanasia movement in Australia, sparking a week of impassioned talk back on Melbourne radio.

A member of Exit International and supportive of the work of Dr Philip Nitschke, on Thursday 21 July, Steve will speak (with Dr Nitschke) at a public meeting where the rationale of the Peaceful Pill option will be examined in detail (Steve calls it a "magic bullet"). The best example of this is the highly restricted version of the barbiturate known as Nembutal.

In going public with his story, Steve is not only showing extraordinary bravery and courage, but he is trying to prevent others from suffering the trauma and turmoil that is engulfing him in his final weeks of life.

While many people get cancer, far fewer are prepared to lay their lives open, to point out the indignity of their situation or the unfairness that they cannot get the same end of life treatment as their pets; a point Steve makes only too succinctly.

#### **More information**

Steve Guest: 03-5258-3477

Dr Philip Nitschke: 0407 189 339

**The Peaceful Pill Public Meeting with Steve Guest will be held at Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Packington St, Geelong West on Thursday 21 July at 2pm.**