



Exit Australia

PO Box 37781, Winnellie, Northern Territory, Australia, 0821
Tel: 0500-83-1929, Fx: 08-8983-2949,
e-mail <exit@euthanasia.net>, Web: www.euthanasia.net

Media Release

Holding Hands of the Dying Deemed - OK

Voluntary euthanasia group EXIT greeted the news today that charges will not be laid against the 21 who sat with Nancy Crick when she committed suicide with relief.

Speaking from Sydney, EXIT Director Dr Philip Nitschke said the 21 had been through considerable anguish, and his organisation EXIT subjected to several police raids during the two-year investigation, and that that would all now end.

“These people asked a simple question: is it a crime to sit with someone when they take the lawful step of suiciding – or is it the crime of “assisting” a suicide that could attract a heavy prison sentence.

“To date, no Australian government has been prepared to clarify this. Every night I know of someone who is sitting with their partner or parent while they suicide – every time there is anguish about what they should say in the morning.

The recommendation by Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson that charges not be brought against the 21 with Nancy gives hope at last that there can at last be some openness or honesty in dying.

While we recognise that this decision does not set a legal precedent, it will prevent those wanting to end their suffering from dying alone.

Tomorrow – Sunday - Dr Nitschke will be attending Sydney Film Festival for the world premiere of the new feature documentary “Mademoiselle Nigot and the Doctor” which documents his role in the death of Nancy Crick.

For Information:

Dr Philip Nitschke 0407-189-339

12 June, 2004.