



## Media Release

# New Swiss Assisted Suicide Service Opens Office in Melbourne

Barely six months after the implementation of Victoria's voluntary assisted dying law, and on the eve of the West Australian Parliament passing a similar Act, the newest of the Swiss assisted suicide groups – Pegasos Swiss Association – has opened an international office in Melbourne.

According to the group's Australian Coordinator, Damian Flowers, the information and drop-in service has been established in response to a need voiced by Victorians who don't fit the very tight criteria of the Victorian law.

From his office in Flinders Lane in Melbourne's CBD, Mr Flowers says that Exit is contacted weekly by people upset that they do not qualify under the Victoria law because they are 'not sick enough to get help to die'.

Melbourne fireman Troy Thornton who travelled to Basel with his wife Chris in February this year for an assisted suicide is a good example, he said. Troy had a condition called Multiple System Atrophy. AMS was slowly robbing Troy of all movement.

Troy said that he did not want his kids, Laura and Jack, to remember him as paralysed. But with AMS, his doctors had been clear. They said that Troy was much more likely to die *with* the condition than *from* it.

With no doctor able to say with any certainty that he would be dead within 12 months (as the Victorian law demands of people who have a neurological diagnosis), Troy would never have qualified for assisted suicide in Victoria.

Fortunately, Exit was able to refer Troy to a clinic near Basel. The same clinic who helped 104-year old Professor David Goodall in May 2018. The same professionals who assisted Troy and David are those who have founded Pegasos.

Pegasos aims to simplify the application process for English speaking foreigners, and makes extensive use of the internet to facilitate on-line application.

Several elderly people from Australians and NZ have made provisional bookings with Pegasos. The first Australian will use the service within the next fortnight.

Damian Flowers says he came to the issue of voluntary euthanasia after the horrific death of his younger sister, Angelique Flowers. Angelique, 30 years, died in a Melbourne hospice in August 2008. She had stage 4 bowel cancer. Damian held her as she died from a bowel blockage.

He would never want anyone else to go through such an experience which is why he is now committed on helping others who may want, and are prepared, to make the arduous trip to the other side of the world to get the help they should be able to, but can't, get here in Melbourne.

**More information** about Angelique and Damian Flowers is at:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/this-is-angelique-she-wanted-to-die-with-dignity-20080912-4fi2.html>

**Information** about Pegasos Swiss Association is at: <https://pegasos-association.com/>

END

8 Dec 2019

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