



PRESS RELEASE

Nitschke Disappointed at NZ Chief Censor Handbook Decision

Pro Voluntary Euthanasia organization Exit International has said that it is intensely disappointed at the 'objectionable' ruling given to the international edition of The Peaceful Pill Handbook by the New Zealand Chief Censor's office.

Speaking from Melbourne, Exit International Founder and Director said it was a significant setback to have New Zealand follow Australia's lead and ban the book.

"I realise the New Zealand Chief Censor Mr Bill Hastings must have been under incredible political pressure when delivering his ruling."

Those making submissions and who argued *for* the book's 'objectionable' ruling included:

- MP Peter Brown, New Zealand First party
- Simon Robb, Medical Council of New Zealand
- Senior Police Legal Advisor Inspector Alistair Murray
- Maria Cotter, Team Leader, Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health
- Ken Orr, Right to Life New Zealand

Only the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of New Zealand supported the handbook's publication claiming that the book would be a valuable 'reference work' for the Society's 1500+ elderly members.

In light of the decision, Dr Nitschke said he looks forward to taking on board the ruling of the Chief Censor, altering the publication and resubmitting the book for classification by the end of the week.

"As authors we are grateful to Mr Hastings for the level of detail contained in his report. While we don't agree with the 'objectionable' rating given to the book we do accept it and we are more than prepared to rework sections if it means the book will make it into bookshops around New Zealand in the coming months."

Contact: Dr Philip Nitschke +61 407 189 339 Dr Fiona Stewart +61 417 398 401

www.exitinternational.net

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