

Jay Franklin



I am 39 and live in Melbourne. I am very passionate about running as a candidate in our upcoming Federal Election, as I was born with a very chronic bowel disease.

Due to my illness I had to leave school at the start of year 12, due to the fact I had just missed out on far too much schooling over the years. When I left school I was very ill.

I found Employment in quite a few odd jobs that I had applied for, until I came across a position for a Senior Warehouse Assistant, this was at the age of about 17 roughly. I quickly was promoted to Warehouse Manager as I was already doing the work anyway.

My health was ok for most of the time, but I did need a few admissions to have surgery for bowel obstructions.

Around the time of my 21st birthday I was admitted to hospital for a few months for very major surgery for a complete bowel obstruction.

I managed to get better and return to work and fortunately I left work and was well enough to go overseas travelling for 3 months.

Also during times after 2001 I was coaching little athletics & I was also on the Board Of Management at The Coburg Athletics Centre, in the capacity as Competition Director, making sure the running of the day all went ok & also dealing with complaints from both parents & children.

My Medical Background:

I was born with a chronic bowel disease and have had all my large intestine and majority of my small intestine removed over the years and have undergone over 100 operations throughout my life.

I suffer from very severe chronic pain on a daily basis due to abdominal adhesions or complete or incomplete bowel obstructions. Since 2007 my chronic pain has increased severely which greatly affects my day to day life, where I required surgery for a bowel obstruction and try to clear out my abdominal adhesions, this surgery lasted 18 hours before being rushed back to theatre for a further 6 hours due to complications.

I'm on a lot of heavy narcotics to try and help with my chronic pain, but these are not completely successful.

I've been told on multiple occasions that there is nothing surgically they can offer me anymore and that I'm not a candidate for an intestinal transplant due to all of my abdominal adhesions and it is just the same after a transplant.

All they can do is try to manage my pain the best they can at home and because they don't class my situation as terminal there is no help that I can receive from palliative care services here in Victoria to be able to receive IV pain relief in the home.

In August 2013 I was accepted to travel to Dignitas in Switzerland to end my life peacefully and on my terms when I feel the time is right for me. I don't feel that I should have to travel to the other side of the world to end my life and wish I could do this in my own home at my time of choosing, plus with my health condition getting worse, and it doesn't look like VE laws will be changed in Australia in the near future after a lot of attempts that have to date failed to be passed in different states.

When it comes to end of life choices, we should have the right to end our immense suffering and go out on one's own terms. This isn't just for me but it's for all Australians' who are suffering from a terminal illness or those in uncontrollable pain and suffering.

Jay Franklin.

Melbourne, May 2016.