



Media

Elderly Australians harassed by late-night police 'wellness checks'

Elderly Australia members of Exit International have been receiving midnight “wellness checks” from local police over the past two weeks.

These visits follow the arrest of Canadian Ken Law for selling the inorganic salt sodium nitrite. The arrest of Law followed the publication of the result of a sting operation by journalist James Beal of the UK Times who was looking into the suicide of 22 year old, Tom Parfett.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/canadian-chef-arrested-over-sale-of-poison-to-suicidal-youngsters-pn2c8lrdrn>

Speaking from Amsterdam, Exit International Director Philip Nitschke said:

“Late-night wellness checks are a questionable use of scarce police resources.

Exit members acquiring this salt are not “unwell” and don’t require nanny-state supervision. They simply want the comfort of knowing that they have in their possession the means to peacefully and reliably end their lives, should that time arrive. They see acquisition of nitrite as a safety net that provides them with ultimate control.”

One Australian recipient of a recent welfare check said:

“Two police officers knocking on our door at 11.30 pm was quite unsettling. We were both in bed asleep, the house was in darkness, and police arriving on our doorstep in such circumstances is upsetting. We found it difficult to get back to sleep.

I am not unwell and have done nothing illegal. I had received the parcel some weeks earlier, so do not understand why there was any urgency for a so-called welfare check. It didn’t seem a good use of police time.

Another, 86 yr old Exit member was visited by three police at 11pm. She was startled, disorientated and confused by the visit. She made a visit to the police station the following day to complain about the harassment of "these ridiculous welfare checks".

ACT Exit chapter coordinator Dr David Swanton has contacted the ACT attorney general to seek some explanation for this police behavior. Dr Swanton said

"The alleged substances are legal, and in the absence of effective Australian VAD regulatory regimes, thousands of elderly Australians have had such deliveries. For many people, suicide is a better alternative to suffering and dementia".

Background:

Increasing restriction on the online purchase of the premier euthanasia drug Nembutal has forced many elderly who want the means to peacefully and reliably end their lives at the time of their choosing to seek effective alternatives. Reports of the Australian breakthrough development of ‘Hoggone’ a humane method to control feral pig populations, led Exit International to carry out an investigation as to whether the active ingredient in Hoggone, sodium nitrite, could also be used by humans seeking a peaceful death. The substance was not restricted, readily available and cheap.

See: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-25/humane-australian-breakthrough-in-feral-pig-control-hoggone/100311150>

This Exit research led to the inclusion of a detailed chapter on the use of sodium nitrite as an effective end of life agent for humans in the 2018 edition of [*The Peaceful Pill Handbook*](#). Since publication, many elderly Exit members, estimated at more than 100, have successfully used this substance to end their lives.

The sudden increase in the use of this substance as a suicide agent has been noticed by medical and legal authorities. For a summary see: *Increasing use of sodium nitrite in suicides—an emerging trend*

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35334075/>

Unfortunately, as news of the effectiveness of this agent spread, information found its way into a number of on-line suicide chat rooms, and many young people have also purchased and ended their lives with this substance. The understandable grief of parents and loved ones associated with the growing number of young suicide victims has prompted legal action against Amazon and other on-line nitrite retailers, and led The Times in the UK to entrap one such retailer, Canadian Ken Law.

Following publication of the recent report in The Times, police around the world have been carrying out “wellness checks” on those known to have made a purchase of this product from Mr Law. As it is not illegal to purchase nitrite and the substance is not restricted, these visits, invariably made very late at night, seem designed purely to intimidate and harass.

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Contact:

Philip Nitschke - +31 6 30 966 992, Dr David Swanton 0447 754 740

Email: exit@euthanasia.net

Web: www.exitinternational.net