

Philip Nitschke

Independent for Menzies

As your elected representative I will:

- Work to restore your right to end of life choices
- Prioritise climate change initiatives
- Support a move to non-nuclear renewable energy policies
- Ensure stem cell research is encouraged to find cures
- Enshrine a woman's right to choose

Choice: A Human Right

The Question of Integrity in Public Office

As a Commonwealth Minister, your member for Menzies, Kevin Andrews has:

- Used the *wrong* test of "personal character" in the Dr Haneef affair
- Ruled that Human Rights do not apply to *genuine* refugees on Nauru
- Lied about authorship of books on his CV
- Blamed refugees from war-stricken Africa for failing to 'integrate'
- Introduced a Citizenship test that discriminates against people whose first language is other than English.

Philip Nitschke supports transparency, honesty and personal integrity in public office regardless of the issue at stake.

About Philip Nitschke



Philip Nitschke was born in rural South Australia in 1947 to his school teacher parents Gwen and Harold, descendents of the founders of the town of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills. Today, Philip travels widely providing medical and legal information and comfort to the elderly and the terminally ill. He lives with his partner Dr Fiona Stewart and their two dogs.

Philip has formal qualifications in both physics (PhD 1973) and medicine (MBBS, 1989) and has coauthored two books with his partner, *Killing Me Softly* and *The Peaceful Pill Handbook*. He has work experience in conflict resolution - working with Vincent Lingiari and the Gurindji Land Rights claim, the environment - working as a Parks and Wildlife Ranger, medicine - working as a staff and community doctor, along with a number of other diverse employment experiences which include taxi and tram driving in Melbourne.

In 1996, he became the first doctor to administer a legal, lethal, voluntary injection to cancer sufferer, Bob Dent, under the NT *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act*. The Act lasted nine months before being overturned by the Kevin Andrews Private Members Bill.

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Voluntary Euthanasia & End of Life Rights

In 1997, the Kevin Andrews' Private Members Bill led to the overturning of the world's first Voluntary Euthanasia law – the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act* of the Northern Territory.

In the decade since, many ill Australians have been forced into suffering. Minister Andrews says he is “pro-life.” In reality, he is “pro-suffering” in the name of *his*, not *your*, God.

Philip Nitschke believes Minister Andrews should stop pushing his “religion-based” attitudes on others. 80% of Australians believe that a terminally ill person, with no hope of recovery, should be able to seek medical assistance to end their pain and suffering. Philip will support voluntary euthanasia law reform.



Pregnancy Choices and Contraception

Minister Andrews is an Honorary Patron of the pro-life organization, Life Decisions International. In the US, Life Decisions International has been instrumental in the Bush administration's support and funding of abstinence-only Crisis Pregnancy Centres.

Minister Andrews has also spoken out at the Endeavour Forum (which opposes abortion) and the Family Council of Victoria (which opposes sex education). He opposed the introduction of the abortion drug RU486 into hospitals and clinics in Australia.

Philip Nitschke believes that women's access to safe, reliable contraception and pregnancy termination is a fundamental human right of all women.

Stem Cell Research

Minister Kevin Andrews believes that Stem Cell Research treats “human beings as a commodity” denying society the benefits that the cloning of cells may provide in the future to people with such devastating diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis or Motor Neurone Disease.

Minister Andrews' opposition to stem cell research denies people (less fortunate than himself) hope for the future and is a position devoid of human compassion.

Philip Nitschke believes stem cell research should be encouraged in the hope that such research will help future generations. This is the right thing to do.

Policies that address Climate Change

The Federal government has for too long refused to acknowledge the reality of global warming and climate change. With this head-in-the-sand approach Australia refused to ratify the Kyoto plan, and instead sided with the US claiming that greenhouse targets were not necessary, especially if it were found that they would restrict economic growth.

With our nation now racked with drought, water restriction and extreme climatic events, our Federal government has responded by uncritically endorsing a nuclear and “clean” coal energy future.

The recent decision to support the Tasmanian pulp mill is further evidence of this government's preparedness to trade away our precious and irreplaceable environment.

Philip Nitschke supports immediate ratification of the Kyoto protocol, the pursuit of non nuclear renewable energy options for the nation, and an end to the development of an “at all costs” mentality that has brought the planet to its knees.

Fighting for Social Change

Philip has a long history of campaigning for social change. Among the issues that he has fought for in the past are:

- Peace movement - supports withdrawal of troops from Iraq
- Aboriginal land rights - supports native title, autonomy and self determination for Aboriginal people
- Anti-nuclear movement - supports a sustainable, non-nuclear energy future
- End of life rights and choices for the terminally ill.

* This pamphlet is available from the Campaign Office printed in Greek, Italian and Chinese, ring 9850-8192

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