



## PRESS RELEASE

# New Suicide Machine Comes to Vancouver

Pro-assisted suicide group Exit International will be visiting Vancouver tomorrow to demonstrate the new Assisted Suicide Machine 'The Debreather' which co-won the NuTech Assisted Suicide Prize (\$5000) for innovation in end of life technologies in Toronto on Saturday.

In 1996, Dr Nitschke was the first physician to provide a legal, lethal voluntary injection to four terminally ill patients under Australia's *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act*.

The Australian law lasted 9 months before being overturned by the Australian Parliament.

Now a permanent resident of the Netherlands, Dr Nitschke is visiting Vancouver to reveal the new 'De-Breather' suicide device.

The De-Breather was initially conceived by BC Euthanasia Activist John Hofsess in the late 1990s.

The new version of the Debreather builds on Hofsess' ground-breaking work to provide a device that enables a seriously ill/ elderly person to have a peaceful and reliable death at a time of their choosing.

Speaking from Toronto, Dr Nitschke said the current world trend in assisted suicide is towards Do It Yourself (DIY) methods of euthanasia.

"In countries like the Netherlands - where there is more than 2 decades experience of right to die laws - the emphasis is now on peaceful dying methods that don't require medical sanction; that is methods that the person can control themselves and which don't involve doctors.

"While legislation is very recent in Canada and while there are current attempts to broaden eligibility, there is a greater segment of the population that do not take kindly to having to prove themselves to panels of doctors in order to qualify to die.

"As a baby boomer myself, I empathize with folk who don't see why they need to "qualify to die".

"I see also that very few people will ever be able to use right to die legislation. We do not know if we would ever take the step of ending our lives with a machine such as the Debreather but I do know how comforting it is to know we have choice.

Dr Nitschke will be demonstrating the De-Breather at a free public meeting at the Vancouver Unitarians, 949 49th Ave West at 1.30pm on Wednesday 1 November.

The public meeting will be followed by a closed workshop for the over 50s.



*De-Breather*, US designed winner of the 2017 Exit NuTech prize for technological innovation in providing better DIY elective death

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