



Brighton Couple in Rational Suicide Pact – Generous Donors to Exit

Peter and Patricia Shaw of Brighton were members of Exit International for well over a decade.

They were generous donors to Exit and Mr Peter regularly attended Exit's workshops at Sth Yarra library.

'I remember Mr Shaw as a very polite and keenly interested elderly gentleman, always very grateful to Philip Nitschke for treating him with respect and taking the time to answer his questions. Many of the questions asked involved the use of Max Dog nitrogen as the means of obtaining a peaceful and lawful death' Exit Executive Director, Dr Fiona Stewart said today.

Peter maintained constant contact with Exit over the past decade and staff records show that it was always a pleasure to help him with his questions. One of the new conditions the Medical Board of Australia has placed on the Medical Registration of Dr Nitschke is that he no longer be able to answer such questions on the use of gases or drugs like Nembutal to obtain a peaceful death.

'The Shaw's deaths are a case of rational suicide or rational death. They present an example of where a voluntary euthanasia/ assisted suicide law – if there ever were one in Victoria – would be of no help' said Dr Stewart.

'The law would help one member of a couple, but the other person would be told to come back to qualify only when they became terminally ill' she said.

'At Exit we are increasingly seeing elderly couples electing to go together. This is not something society should condemn'.

Mr Peter Shaw was 87 years old.

Exit sends its thoughts to the extended Shaw family.

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