

e-Deliverance

A PEACEFUL DEATH IS EVERYBODY'S RIGHT

April - June 2014

An Exit International publication • www.exitinternational.net

DEATH OF FREE SPEECH?

MEDICAL BOARD OPENS 3RD INVESTIGATION

The month of May has seen the Medical Board of Australia open a third concurrent investigation into Exit Director, Dr Philip Nitschke's, registration as a medical practitioner in Australia. This is despite the fact that the vast majority of Philip's work with Exit is outside of medicine and work for which his medical insurer will not cover him because it is not medical practice.

As reported in the previous edition of *Deliverance*, on 25 February this year Philip Nitschke accepted an invitation from Dr Chin-Wern

Chan of the Acute Pain Unit of the Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth to give a closed breakfast presentation to the medical staff. Little did Philip know that two months later, his speech would form the basis of a third investigation by the Medical Board of Australia into Dr Nitschke's fitness to hold medical registration. (This is despite the fact that Philip does not practice as a doctor due to his political advocacy work at Exit International).

The investigation comes as a result of a complaint by Dr Mark Schutze who alleged that in

discussing voluntary euthanasia and end of life choices, Dr Nitschke 'promotes doctor assisted suicides/ euthanasia. This includes instructions on how to suicide and instructions on how to kill people'. Dr Schutze continued: 'I am concerned about him promoting euthanasia for "social reasons". These social reasons include reaching a certain age, not being able to play golf, and grief at the death of a spouse'.

Continuing, Dr Schutze wrote: 'This conduct by Dr Nitschke is not in accordance of (sic) the values of the medical profession

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DEATH OF FREE SPEECH CONT

(sic). He breaches the law and promotes practices that have the potential to harm the fabric of our society ... This man is a risk to our patients and does not deserve registration as a medical practitioner’.

When Exit was first notified of the complaint by the Medical Board (now called AHPRA - the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency), the general response was that given Chatham House rules were implied to apply to the presentation, the complaint would go no further.

In this respect it was Mark Schutze who had breached the morally-binding Chatham House rules by complaining to the Medical Board in the first place. Whether Dr Schutz took this path in ignorance or in spite, the Rules hold that while an attendee at a meeting is free to quote from the discussion, they have also undertaken to be bound not to reveal the identity, employer or political party of the speaker. Since 1927 the Rules have been widely acknowledged and employed around the western world, to increase open discussion on controversial topics.

However, instead of doing the right thing and respecting the Chatham House Rules of the Charles Gairdner Hospital breakfast seminar program - rules which since Dr Nitschke’s presentation have gone from implicit to explicit with attendees now required to sign the attendance book and agree in writing to the Rules prior to entry - the Medical Board of Western Australia has chosen to issue Philip with formal notice of an investigation. They have requested in writing that he provide ‘an explanation as to whether your presentation:

1. was philosophical with hypothetical examples or making reference to real life cases
2. included any exhortation to commit acts that are currently illegal
3. included examples of any illegal acts carried out by other doctors or yourself’.

As has been said before and no doubt will be said again, the whole incident would be laughable were the stakes not so serious. It is not surprising that the Hospital is now short of speakers with other doctors cancelling their involvement in

the breakfast meetings for fear that their opinions also may be complained about to the regulation agency.

At the current time, Dr Nitschke is the subject of three separate investigations into his medical registration. The first stemmed from his alleged attempt to import Nembutal for a terminally ill Exit Member under the Special Access Scheme of the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The second investigation was the result of a complaint by right wing Catholic Paul Russell into the Max Dog Nitrogen brewing supplies. Too bad that Philip is widely considered a craft beer expert. And now this third investigation.



In a follow-up email to staff Dr Chan wrote: ‘I feel that the whole situation has been blown out of proportion, BUT it has highlighted the need to make changes to how the seminars are run to maintain “freedom of speech” and to make guest speakers feel welcome. This is the least we can do for speakers who give up their time for us.

For Dr Nitschke, such common sense words are too little too late. Once again, Philip will need to stop Exit work, meet with lawyers and waste time preparing lengthy written replies. But perhaps this is what the opponents of free speech really want. They don’t agree with the views Philip holds and they don’t want him talking about end of life choices so the best they can do is try to distract him from his work under the guise of protecting the public.

The final question in this sorry saga to date must be so what if Dr Mark Schutze doesn’t agree with Philip’s point of view? As a palliative care specialist this is hardly surprising. But is it grounds for him to prevent Philip from speaking about his work. A reasonable person would think not.



LAUNCHES IN VICTORIA

On 29 November, Victorians will go to the polls. The Voluntary Euthanasia Party will field a range of candidates across all eight electoral regions of the Upper House, the Legislative Council. Following the 2006 changes to the Victorian electoral system, it is now generally believed to be easier for minor parties to get candidates elected, and to even hold the balance of power.

With this in mind and given the Victorian Parliament's dismal failure to pass voluntary euthanasia laws on two separate occasions, the Voluntary Euthanasia Party is well placed to force change on this important social issue.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Party will shortly seek registration in Victoria. To do this the VEP needs at least 500 members who

live in Victoria and who are not members of any other political party. **Joining is FREE.**

To join the VEP, go to: www.vepvic.org & complete the online joining form. Or, contact Victorian Campaign Coordinator, Bertha Franklin on 0411-250-480 or office@vepvic.org for forms. Registrations must be submitted by the end of May.

VEP is holding a planning meeting at:

2pm, Saturday 17 May

Toorak Library 340 Toorak Rd, Sth Yarra

All VE supporters welcome.

Afternoon tea will be served.

WA ELECTION WASH UP

As most Exit members will now be aware the VEP came remarkably close to winning the final Senate seat in the WA Senate rerun held on Saturday 5 March. The wash-up is as follows:

- The VEP attracted more than 6800 primary votes (0.65%)
- We then picked up preferences from many of the minor parties as they were eliminated in the distribution.
- At each distribution another minor party was eliminated.
- VEP survived 33 of these counts picking up votes from Save ABC, Wikileaks, Sex Party, etc until there were only two micro parties left (HEMP & VEP).

The surprise decision by Liberal Democrats to preference HEMP before VEP, giving them an extra 26,000 votes instead

of us, meant that we were eliminated on count 33 with a total of 28,644

votes and 0.19 of a quota. Had the Liberal Democrats preferred us (as we did them), we would have lasted at least two more counts, passing HEMP and the Nationals, and with ALP preferences coming to VEP, likely taken the sixth seat!

Philip would like to thank running mate Jim Duffield, WA Exit Coordinator Carol O'Neil & the many volunteers who helped on election day.

The WA Campaign is dedicated to the memory of melanoma sufferer and courageous VE campaigner, Laurie Strike. Laurie launched the VEP election campaign. He then called for and later received Nembutal from an anonymous donor over the Internet.



Dr Philip Nitschke speaking at the West Australian Newspaper - Channel 7 Candidates' Forum

Laurie took his peaceful pill on the evening of 7 April. Vale - Laurie Strike.

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL



For his second appearance at the Sydney Writers Festival, Philip Nitschke will be appearing at two special events. The first is a panel discussion titled 'A Mind of One's Own' which examines 'the pleasures and perils of growing old in the age of modern medicine'.

The panel features: Philip Nitschke, Lynne Segal, Ranjana Srivastava, Rebecca Huntley (facilitator) and will be held at 10am on Thursday 22 May on the Main Stage 2/3 Pier, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay.

Tickets are \$20/\$14. Bookings can be made on 9250 1988, or online from www.tickets.sydneytheatre.org.au

Philip's second appearance will be with his co-author Peter Corris on Friday 23 May at 4.30pm at The Loft, 2/3 Pier, Walsh Bay. This event is free so no ticket necessary. The whimsical trailer for the SWF can be viewed at: <http://www.swf.org.au>



SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL: 35 LETTERS

Exit takes great pride in announcing that Janine Hosking's new documentary '35 Letters' about the young Melbourne writer, Angelique Flowers, will be premiering at the Sydney Film Festival at 6pm on Friday 6 June.

The SFF describes the film as follows:

'This innovative and moving documentary follows Angelique Flowers, a young woman in the last phases of a terminal illness, as she struggles to find grace in an inflexible healthcare system.'

Janine Hosking and Steve Hopes would especially like to invite all in the Exit community who generously donated to the making of the documentary over the past two years. Without this support 35 Letters would never have been made.

The trailer for 35 Letters can be viewed at:

http://tix.sff.org.au/session_sff.asp?s=83

Dr Philip Nitschke would like to invite all Exit members and supporters of voluntary euthanasia to join him at:

6 - 8pm on Friday 6 June

Event Cinemas, 500 George St, Sydney

100m from Town Hall

Tickets are available from the SFF on 1300 733 733 or online at sff.org.au



SPEAKING OUT

With so much happening at the moment on the VE front, it saddens me that I must spend so much of my time tied up in preparing statements for the Australian Medical Board. This is not only a distraction from my work at Exit but this new third investigation into my suitability to be registered as a doctor is in my opinion beyond the pale. As my elderly mother Gwen remarked, 'what will they think of next?'

There I am giving an invited breakfast talk to a closed meeting of medical professionals at the Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth. I got up early to contribute my time for free, believing that an opportunity to speak to fellow doctors was a valuable one for all concerned. Is speaking about VE medical practice? Is holding a pro-choice view incompatible with good medical practice? Time will tell. In the meantime I have to get on with things and try not to worry.

VEP IN VICTORIA

I was heartened this month to see the local Dying with Dignity Victoria group get behind the VEP's call for new members in Victoria. This signals a welcome change of heart to the group's initial response to the VEP for last year's Federal election. As Director of Exit I look forward to working with DWDV on the 2014 VEP Victorian election campaign.

ABC BIG IDEAS: PERTH WRITERS FESTIVAL

If you missed the Perth Writers Festival you can catch the 'Good Death' panel with myself, Dr Anne Summers, US writer Lionel Shriver and Professor Dennis Altman at ABC TV's Big Ideas website at: <http://ab.co/1kXBPed>

WA POLICE

Some have suggested that the Australian Federal Police are undertaking a targeted scare campaign against Exit members in Western Australia. While I'm not one for conspiracy theories, I do question the enthusiasm with which the AFP and the WA Police are pursuing some senior citizens in the West. Whether they have been driven by the questionable antics of that State's Legislative Council politicians or whether they are simply sick of being shown up by the many Exit Members who have successfully imported Nembutal from China or Mexico we don't know. What we do know is that their raids are continuing. The one piece of advice to all who receive visits is

SAY NOTHING OTHER THAN CONFIRMING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MAX DOG NITROGEN USA

Since the February launch of Max Dog Nitrogen in the US, I am told that sales are strong with a second round of cylinders now under order. To order visit www.maxdogbrewing.com

PPEH MAY 2014 UPDATE

This month's update to the online *Peaceful Pill eHandbook* takes a different tack to focus upon ways that you can safeguard your will in the event that you suicide (or 'self-deliver' as some prefer to call it). While the law has never equated the act of suicide with a lack of capacity to make a will, in medicine quite the opposite is the case. From the bio-medical perspective, a person will generally only suicide when they are psychiatrically ill. A mentally ill person is, generally, unable to make a will. This dominant and rather unhelpful view can have serious ramifications for those who elect rational suicide. This update shows subscribers how to avoid some common pitfalls.

BEWARE - INTERNET SCAMS

A second focus of this month's PPeH update will be the proliferation of websites linking themselves to Exit and which purport to sell Nembutal online. Beware - these are scams. Do not send \$\$\$. Verified sources of online Nembutal are exclusive to the PPeH and can be found in Chapter 14. Watch the legal issues if you elect to go down this path.

BRUSSELS COFFEE & CHAT

Exit will hold our first European coffee & chat session on Saturday 5 July at 2pm at the Le Cercle des Voyageurs, Rue des Grand Carmes 18, in downtown Brussels.

Coffee & Chats are informal sessions where Exit Members (and in Europe subscribers to the PPeH) can come together and exchange news and views. I will be hosting this inaugural Belgium get-together. I look forward to welcoming old and new faces. See you then.

FOLLOW EXIT ON TWITTER

Increasingly, the only way to stay abreast of Exit activities globally is on Twitter. Join us at #philipnitschke

Philip Nitschke

NEW EXIT WEBSITE LAUNCHES 16 MAY 2014



This month sees Exit's new website finally launch. Over 12 months in the design and structure, the new website is intended to present a much more visually inviting site for all activities Exit.

Users will notice several new sections, along with direct navigation buttons to the Exit store and the Peaceful Pill Handbook website.

Exit would like to thank Freerange Future for their incredible design work. In particular thanks are due to the very creative Amy Milhinch for her patience, careful and critical ear and for being such a wonderful person to work with. Thank you Freerange.

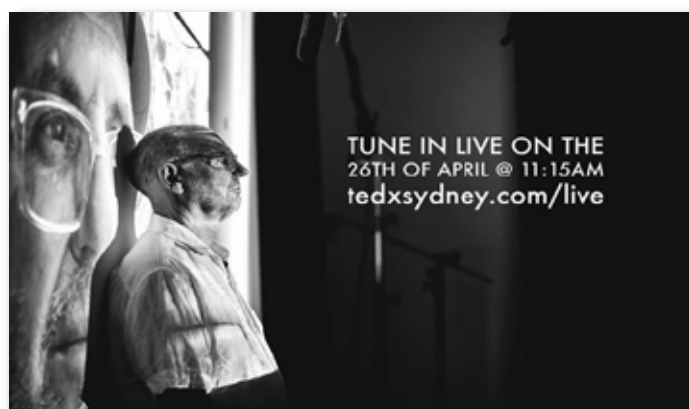
TED X @ SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Philip was pleased to participate virtually at the recent Ted X at the Sydney Opera House via the new short film 'John Was a Good Man'.

The Brief? To write and then read one's own Eulogy. Philip joins a number of prominent Australians in this intriguing film that was screened on the night.

The film can be viewed at:

<http://www.johnwasagoodman.com>



NEW WORKSHOP DATES

A few unforeseen events have meant changes to forthcoming workshops.

Sydney, NSW - NEW DAY & DATE

1 - 4pm Saturday 24 May
Rex Centre, Macleay St Potts Point
(enter via Fitzroy Gardens opp. Kings Cross Police Station)

London, UK - unchanged

10am - 2pm, Monday 23 June
Dragon Hall
17 Stukeley St
London WC2B 5LT

Canberra, ACT - NEW DAY & DATE

1 - 4pm, Monday 14 July
Hughes Community Centre
Wittle St, Hughes 2605

Melbourne, Vic - unchanged

1 - 5pm, Thursday 17 July
Phoenix Park Community Centre
22 Rob Roy Rd, Malvern East
Melway Reference: Map 69 D2

Workshop Bookings

Email: contact@exitinternational.net

Phone: 1300-10-3948 (EXIT)

Registration forms are available from:

<http://www.exitinternational.net/page/Workshops>

POLICE RAIDS ON WA EXIT MEMBERS - 8 & COUNTING

As many in the Exit community would be aware, recent months have seen an increasing number of Exit members' homes being visited or raided by WA Police, who are apparently acting both of their own accord and under direction from the Australian Federal Police.

At the time of press 10 Exit members have been visited by the police. The reason for the visits has varied but has included the police conducting 'welfare checks' (short-hand for snooping around without a warrant to enter) and search and seizures for drugs under warrant.

This spate of activity is clearly politically driven and has left many of the members concerned with anxiety, depression and fear of the law. As one Exit member put it following the police search of his home:

'I am very very tired as still suffering from stress of five local police at my front gate with search warrant for Sodium Pentobarbital ... I have been very ill since this happened I cant sleep and shake during the day, no appetite, chronic anxiety, crying, high blood pressure and heart rate, stomach ache and kidney pains'.

If Ken's welfare was dubious (which it was not) prior to the police visit, it is even worse now. This is clearly community policing gone mad! To this end, Dr Nitschke penned an opinion editorial for the West Australian newspaper which ran as the lead piece on 1 May. In his article Philip asked:

'I realize it might be an easy enough mistake but the elderly folk who make up the membership of my organization, Exit International, are not the Coffin Cheaters. Yes I know 75 year old Ray arrived at my recent Perth workshop on his Harley. And yes I know his wrinkled old arms and hands were covered in tattoos. But, trust me Police Commissioner, this is not the normal face of your state's Exit Members.

Rather, the Exit Members of WA are on the whole the grannies and gramps of the family next door. Yes these are the same ones who, not once but now six times, have been visited by your police officers in recent weeks.'

Dr Nitschke's article was written not only to draw attention to the antics of the WA Police and their Federal



counterparts. It was also published to highlight the ludicrous actions of the WA Legislative Council who, at the instigation of the conservative Liberal MP Nick Goiran undertook to legislate not to legislate on voluntary euthanasia.

Joined by politicians who should know better - namely the ALP's Sue Ellery and the Green's Robin Chapple - Goiran's motion was intended to condemn, amongst other things, 'child euthanasia' as passed by the Belgium Parliament in recent months. The speeches that followed this motion showed - perhaps appropriately - infantile understanding of the end of life choices debate. Scare-mongering and statistical distortions have no place in mature parliamentary debate. The adoption of tired pro-life, nonsensical arguments should not serve as the basis of discussion amongst our elected law makers. That Ellery and Chapple joined in the charade must leave the good people of WA where to turn for responsible legislative reform because it surely will not be the WA Parliament.

WARNING

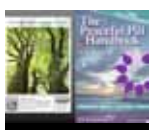
IF the Police do come calling, Exit members are advised to say nothing, other than your name & address. Do not invite the police in! If they have a warrant, let them in but state clearly that you do not consent to their entry. Most important of all, don't confess to anything. You are welcome to call Philip Nitschke at any time day or night on 0407 189 339 of assistance. Good luck and keep your Nembutal safe.

PEACEFULPILLSTORE.COM

Phone: 1- 360-347-1810



The Peaceful Pill Handbook (2013/14 ed)
Within US: US\$38 (includes shipping)
Rest of World : US\$60 (includes shipping)



The Peaceful Pill eHandbook (online edition)
Price: US\$85 (incl 24 months of updates)
INSTANT ACCESS - Updated 6x year



Killing Me Softly: VE & the Road to the Peaceful Pill by Dr Philip Nitschke
Price: US\$35 (exc shipping)



Mademoiselle & the Doctor DVD
(NTSC format)
Director: Janine Hosking
Price: US\$35 (exc shipping)

EXITINTERNATIONALSTORE.COM

Phone: 1300-10-3948 (EXIT)



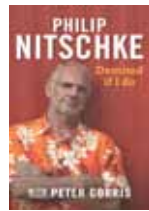
Exit He Gas Flow Control, Tape, Tube
Price: Australia AUD\$200
(inc shipping DHL courier outside of Australia.
Within Australia: Aust Post Satchel exc gst)



New Exit Triple Test Kit (for home use)
(**quantitative - Nembutal**) Price: AUD\$275
(inc shipping DHL courier outside of Australia.
Within Australia: Aust Post Satchel exc gst)



Max Dog Brewing
PO Box 400, Adelaide SA 5001
Price: Various depending on country
www.maxdogbrewing.com



Damned if I Do by Dr Philip Nitschke & Peter Corris. Published by Melbourne University Press. AUD\$45 (exc gst/ shipping)

Join Exit International

I wish to join/ rejoin/ donate to Exit International
(12 Months: Aust - AUD\$110 inc GST \$10; (couples \$165 inc GST \$15); US/Canada US\$100; UK/ Irel £62/ €73)
Life membership - \$1100 (inc gst \$100)

Please send me the paperwork to consider Exit International in my Will

First Name _____
Last Name _____
Address _____
Post/Zipcode _____ Country _____
eMail @ _____
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I am paying \$ _____ for _____
Payment Options: Visa /Mastercard _____
Credit Card No _____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____
Expiry Date _____ / _____



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