

e-Deliverance

A PEACEFUL DEATH IS EVERYBODY'S RIGHT

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IDENTITY THEFT

HOW INTERNET SCAMMERS ARE IMPERSONATING EXIT

In an audacious game of cat and mouse, notorious Internet scammers are impersonating Exit Director, Dr Philip Nitschke, to steal people's money online.

In recent months, Dr Philip Nitschke and Exit International have been subject to identity theft on the Internet. Not only have these criminals stolen images and wording from Exit websites but they have blatantly used Philip's face to promote their scam of selling Nembutal online.

The result of their travails has been people losing thousands of dollars

while attempting to buy Nembutal from these scammers. To this end. As a result Exit receives weekly emails from people accusing Exit of taking their money and providing no drugs in return.

Of course, Exit does not sell, and never has sold, given, or provided, Nembutal. Selling barbiturates is against the law in most countries.

Besides, the sale of drug goes against Exit's principle that people should organise their own end of life options, rather than relying on others to help them. Whether this means taking the decision

to illegally import drugs (an action not condoned by Exit), or purchasing lawfully over-the-counter in some countries; the decision is the individual's alone to make.

The one thing that is clear is that Exit and Dr Philip Nitschke are not selling Nembutal online. Rather, they are the victims of an elaborate yet lucrative hoax.

The full story of the scams can be read about in Chapter 14 of the February 2015 update to the online *Peaceful Pill eHandbook* at: www.peacefulpill.com

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The fake Facebook page set up by the scammers in which they impersonated Dr Philip Nitschke

NITSCHKE APPEAL HEADS TO DARWIN SUPREME COURT

On Christmas Eve, Philip was delivered the unfortunate news that his appeal to the Medical Tribunal of the Northern Territory had failed. The appeal was against the decision of the Australian Medical Board to use emergency powers to suspend him from practice, because of the alleged danger that he represents to public health and safety.

The appeal decision came amidst hitherto high hopes that the Tribunal would find in Philip's favour. However, this was not to be. On day one of the appeal hearing in Darwin in November last year, the Medical Board dropped their assertion that Philip had been in a doctor - patient relationship with Perth man, Nigel Brayley. This shifting of the goal posts would change the entire focus of the appeal.

To the onlooker, it is common sense that Philip is not the treating medical doctor of every member of Exit, nor of anyone who comes along to an Exit workshop as a result of subscribing to the *Peaceful Pill eHandbook*. If that were the case, he would have the longest patient list of any medico in the country and overseas.



Darwin Supreme Court where the next stage of the appeal will be heard on 1 April 2015

Rather, the Board's assumption and the Tribunal's decision both seemed to sidestep the law, favouring instead to base their arguments on the *Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia*. This Code, unlike the general law, places fault not on conduct

which may or may not be deemed appropriate. Rather, the sticking point became that Philip's conduct was that of a registered medical practitioner. This means that a doctor's opinions and behaviour are governed by Code of Practice, regardless of whether he or she is writing a book or hang-gliding!



Edition 1 of 'Dr Twinkle'

In making this point, the Tribunal relied on a number of cases, including the 40 year old case of *Beaumont v Beesley* from 1973. In this case, Dr Beesley was director and manager of a company that published a magazine called the 'Dr Twinkle Medical Journal'. The magazine comprised 'articles on medical subjects, largely of a sexual nature, a correspondence column, a section on medical jokes' etc while advertising commercial pharmaceutical and health products (including 'female contraceptives'). The NSW Court of Appeal found that Dr Beesley had behaved in a way 'which destroys or diminishes the reputation which the profession is entitled to have'. He was thereby guilty of 'infamous conduct' in publishing what amounted to a 'girlie' magazine. One wonders if the same moral standards would be applied today, some 41 years later. Dr Beesley was allowed to reapply for medical registration after a period of two years.

Where Philip is concerned, questions need to be asked about who is out of step? Is Philip out of step with the mores of the community given that around four out of five Australians believe that if a person is suffering unbearably,

NITSCHKE APPEAL HEADS TO DARWIN SUPREME COURT

with no hope of recovery, that person should receive medical assistance to die. But Nigel Brayley's suicide was never about a terminally ill person. And this is the crux. Nigel Brayley's decision to take his own life, regardless of whether he was the murderer of two wives, was the lawful decision of a rational adult. Only Nigel will ever know the reasons why he chose to go early. The *Crimes Acts* of all Australian states confirm that suicide was Nigel's lawful right. Common law confirms that no one had a legal duty to intervene, to thwart or frustrate his plans.

Philip's appeal to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory is due to be heard in the days before Easter on 1 - 2 April (great April fools joke!). In the appeal, Philip's lawyers will argue that the *Code of Conduct* applies only to a doctor's relationships with his/ her patients, and not to 'strangers' like Nigel Brayley and, therefore, a doctor's core tasks do not extend to the care of such strangers.

The lawyers will argue that the Tribunal erred in law in finding that the Code applied to Philip's behaviour in relation to Nigel Brayley. Other arguments include that the Tribunal erred in refusing to hear or consider Philip's submission seeking to inform the Tribunal of the significant peer-reviewed scholarly literature on rational suicide. Amidst the nine errors of law outlined, Philip's lawyers will allege that the finding of the Tribunal was unreasonable to the extent that no reasonable Tribunal could have come to this decision.

If you are interested in supporting Philip through this final stage, please **come to Darwin on 1 April** and join him in the Supreme Court.

If you are unable to get to Darwin and would like to help in other ways, further **legal donations** are desperately needed. Please give now at:

www.gofundme.com/supportphilip

or call Chelsey at Exit to **donate by Credit Card** over the phone on 1300 10 3948.



The sign says it all



Peter Nugent speaking outside the Tribunal



The hearing room in Darwin



Philip with supporters on day 1 of the Tribunal appeal

VEP NSW GEARS UP FOR MARCH ELECTION

The NSW branch of the Voluntary Euthanasia Party have been quick off the mark in preparation for that State's March 2015, holding their inaugural campaign launch in November 2014. The Party plans to field a full contingent of 21 candidates, thereby achieving 'above the line' status on the Upper House voting card. If you support the VEP and you will be voting in NSW, you will be able to mark a single 1 in the VEP box.

The lead candidate for the VEP in NSW will be Shayne Higson. Some Exit members may remember that Shayne stood for the Australian Senate in the 2013 Federal election for the VEP. She is trying her luck again in 2015.

If you would like to get involved with the NSW campaign, you can call or email Shayne on 0403 625 456 or shayne@vep.org.au. Donations can be made out to



No 1 NSW VEP Candidate, Shayne Higson, with Loredana Mulhall whose daughter Natasha is also standing for the VEP

the Voluntary Euthanasia Party (NSW), PO Box 3158, Bellevue Hill NSW 2023. VEP NSW's website can be found at:

http://www.vep.org.au/nsw_state

Exit is pleased to support the VEP in Victoria and New South Wales. We wish Shayne and her team all the best.

LEGAL DEFENCE FUND PLEASE GIVE NOW

Philip has never been a man driven by money. That is perhaps why he has been able to commit himself so passionately, and over such a sustained period of time, to his work at Exit. In founding Exit in 1997 (then called the Voluntary Euthanasia Research Foundation) Philip has devoted his working life to ensuring that Australians and others around the world have the best information in order to make their own end of life choices.

In this humanitarian work Philip strongly believes that it is the right of every rational adult to decide for themselves when to exit the planet. The decision of the Medical Board of Australia to suspend Philip's medical license will not change this mindset. Rather, it makes him more determined. To this end, Philip needs to give the legal system one final shot to clear his name.

If the Medical Board's suspension of Philip goes unchallenged the ramifications are immense. Not only will every doctor in Australia be required to intervene in the suicide plans of any other person, regardless of whether they are in a doctor - patient relationship or not. But this means that no elderly or seriously ill Australian will ever be able to raise the issue with their doctor, for fear



One man against the State: Philip waiting anxiously for his hearing to begin in Darwin, 10 November 2014

that he or she will have them counselled, or even certified (locked up in a mental institution). Please do not let this happen. Please dig deep and donate to Philip's legal defence fund.

www.gofundme.com/supportphilip

Cheques and credit card donations can be sent to:
Philip Nitschke Legal Defence Fund
Exit International, PO Box 37781 Darwin NT 0821

EDITORIAL

e-Deliverance

A LONG TIME BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS

If members were wondering if the delay between newsletters was somehow due to our opponents efforts to frustrate and thwart the activities of Exit (through opening up multiple legal battles in the courts) worry not! As much as the nay-sayers might like to think they are grinding the organisation to a standstill, nothing could be further from the truth.

Rather, the reason why we have delayed so long in publishing in this format is because over the past year, it has become increasingly obvious that news about Exit, myself and voluntary euthanasia is much more fast-paced than a newsletter can handle. This is why, like it or not, the social media programs of Twitter and Facebook have overtaken the 8-page newsletter as the primary way of disseminating information about what we are doing.

To this end I would strongly encourage all Exit members who are on the Internet to familiarise themselves with Twitter. My hashtag (a hashtag is the primary means you use to find my posts on Twitter) is #philipnitschke. Stay in touch with me daily!

VEP VIC APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

There are many hidden talents in the thousands of people who are members of Exit International. In the past year, it has been a privilege to be working alongside one of them in Mr Peter Nugent. Not only has Peter worked pro bono for me on the matter of the Medical Board appeals but he has now taken on the extra role of President and Spokesperson for the Voluntary Euthanasia Party of Victoria.

Peter was admitted as a solicitor in 1993 and called to the Victorian Bar in 1995. Since that time his practice areas have included commercial, administrative, personal injury and equity. Victorians now have a powerful and effective new presence to advocate for law reform and a person's end of life choices.

Recent media about Peter's own story is at: <http://bit.ly/1Hy45DG>
His email is nugent@vicbar.com.au

DYING LAUGHING: COMEDY WITH PURPOSE

To anyone who has ever attended an Exit workshop you will be aware that the subject of end of life choices can lend itself to a good laugh. While I'm no astrologer, when I was writing my autobiography with Peter Corris back in 2013, I did say that if I

ever got deregistered by the Medical Board then I would turn my hand to comedy. While I was not entirely serious at the time, I must admit that I have long-harboured ambitions to take to the stage and do a stand-up routine.

I feel exceptionally lucky that such an opportunity has arisen in the form of one of Exit's youngest UK members, 35-year-old Mel Moon. A seasoned performer until she became ill with a rare polyglandular failure condition, Mel joined Exit in mid 2014 and the two of us got talking (and laughing). These discussions have resulted in a booked engagement at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in August 2015.

We are calling the show 'Dying Laughing: Comedy with Purpose'. We will be performing at 6.30pm each night at 'Just the Tonic' as part of the Festival, which runs for the full month of August. Of course, all Exit members are invited to come along. The show will be part stand-up, part satire. The subject material will be drawn from our collective experiences in talking about life, death and dying. Overlaid on this will be the jokes. Already, the media has shown some interest in what we are doing, so the pressure is on.

DROPPING BY AT DIGNITAS

I was very pleased in recent weeks to be able to visit Dignitas again in Zurich and personally thank Mr Ludwig Minelli for his support. In particular, Dignitas' pledge to assist with my legal defence fund has been especially welcome. In this line of work, one can sometimes think one has few friends. I am pleased to say that Exit's strong and supportive relationship with Dignitas continues unabated. Both groups respect each other's work enormously and barely a week goes by when we do not cross refer those in need to each other.



From left to right: Ludwig Minelli, Fiona Stewart, Philip Nitschke & Silvan Luley

Philip Nitschke

VEP VICTORIA ELECTION RESULTS

The final results for the Voluntary Euthanasia Party of Victoria's first state election on 29 November 2014 are as follows:

- Eastern Metropolitan (David Scanlon) 1.06%
- Northern Metropolitan (Bertha Franklin) 0.29%
- Southern Metropolitan (Penny McCusker) 0.77%
- South Eastern Metropolitan (Sorin Ionascu) 0.55%
- Eastern Victoria (Meg Paul) 1.19%

The Voluntary Euthanasia Party is to be congratulated for its inaugural state election results, especially as the Party had relatively little lead time to prepare for the election. It was only a matter of months between the establishment of the incorporated association and registration as a political party that was qualified to contest the November election.

The Party's campaign was launched by media personality Derryn Hinch at the Toorak Library on Sunday 16 November. A second launch took place in election week, when the VEP banded together with the Australian Sex Party to promote a series of billboards. The boards were aimed at drawing voters' attention to the Christian alliance which was taking hold in the Northern Metropolitan region and which would stop the VEP & the ASP getting elected. Luckily, the campaign worked and ASP founder, Fiona Patten, was elected to the Upper House for the North Metro region. The VEP's collaboration with the ASP also resulted in swapping preferences in some regions.

As a new MLC, Fiona is already in discussions to have Voluntary Euthanasia referred by the Attorney General to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in the coming months. While VEP might not have got elected, we do now have our woman, where we want her; in the Victorian Upper House of Parliament.

At the post-election committee meeting of the VEP Vic, the Presidency of the Party was handed to Mr Peter Nugent. Some may know Peter as the barrister who is representing Philip in his appeal against the Medical Board suspension. Deputy President is Meg Paul. Bertha Franklin remains the Party's public officer. Visit www.vepvic.org for contact details.



*VEP Vic 2014 Campaign Launch:
Candidates with Mr Derryn Hinch & Dr Philip Nitschke*



Dr Philip Nitschke & Ms Fiona Patten at the billboard launch on the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne, 27 November 2014



Mr Peter Nugent handing out VEP how-to-vote cards outside Camberwell Primary School on election day 2014

EXIT CHAPTER COORDINATORS MEET IN BRISBANE

Another successful Exit Chapter Coordinator Planning Meeting was held in late 2014, this time in Brisbane. Almost all of Exit's 20+ Coordinators from Australia and New Zealand were able to attend, in addition to special guests Lesley Bassett and Sophie Haesen who came from Europe to join us.

The days together provided valuable time to network, exchange stories and experiences and work on better ways to help Exit members with their end of life choices, while remaining inside the law. Exit was especially pleased to have barrister, Mr Peter Nugent, join us for the two days.

Peter was able not only to answer the myriad questions the Coordinators threw at him, but was able to provide critical legal advice. Peter's contribution was invaluable from the point of view of ensuring that all of Exit's activities - from workshops to local member Coffee & Chat groups - remain well within the law. This is not always easy given the grey nature of assisted suicide, not only in Australia, but also in New Zealand and the UK.

The Coordinators say they left the meeting with a renewed vigor and sense of purpose. This is precisely the aim of these special regular networking get-togethers. The Brisbane meeting was made possible by a generous bequest recently received by Exit. This is important as all attendance costs are covered by Exit. A humble 'thank you' for the hard work the volunteer Coordinators do throughout the year. The next Chapter Planning meeting will be held in early 2016.



Canberra Chapter Coordinator, Dr David Swanton, tests Exit's new spirometry lung function equipment while Angelika Minner (Brisbane Chapter) looks on



Ah those Kiwis! Auckland & Wellington Chapter Coordinators Fern Mackenzie & Suzy Austen get cheerful. Joined by Suzy's husband 'Jolly Mike' (l) & Newcastle Coordinator John Mackenzie (no relation) (r)

NEW WORKSHOP DATES 2015

Perth WA

9am - 1pm, Monday 1 June
Wembley Community Ctr
40 Alexander St, Wembley 6014

Sydney NSW

9.30am - 1pm, Tuesday 9 June
Dougherty Community Ctr
7 Victor St, Chatswood 2057

Canberra, ACT

1 - 5pm, Wednesday 10 June
Hughes Community Centre
Wisdom St, Hughes 2605

Melbourne VIC

10am - 1pm, Friday 12 June
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>

Other venues scheduled for 2015 include: NYC, Toronto, Adelaide, Gold Coast, Brisbane

PEACEFULPILLSTORE.COM



The Peaceful Pill Handbook (NEW 2014 ed)
Within US: US\$35 (includes shipping)
Rest of World : US\$50 (includes shipping)



The Peaceful Pill eHandbook
(online edition)
24 month subscription: US\$85
- Updated 6x year



Killing Me Softly: VE & the Road to the Peaceful Pill by Dr Philip Nitschke
Within US: US\$33 (includes shipping)
Rest of World : US\$48 (includes shipping)

EXITINTERNATIONALSTORE.COM



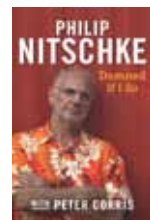
Exit He Gas Flow Controls (with Plumbers Tape + Tube)
Price: AUD \$200
(ships DHL express courier/ express mail)



Exit Drug Test Kit
Price: AUD\$35 (incl shipping globally)



Quantitative Barbiturate Test Kit
Price: AUD \$245
(ships DHL express courier/ express mail)



Damned If I Do (autobiography) by Dr Philip Nitschke & Peter Corris
AUD \$45 (incl shipping globally)

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 _____
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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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