

# Dying *with* Dignity

Tasmania (Inc)

## **SPECIAL NEWSLETTER - March 2014**

### **VIEWS OF CANDIDATES - TASMANIAN STATE ELECTION 2014**

It was very pleasing that we had a much greater response rate than for any other survey of candidates and the increased number of them across Parties who not only support voluntary assisted dying (VAD) legislation, but made comments showing strong support and understanding of the issues.

Information on candidates' views about VAD law reform has come from a variety of sources. This includes votes and speeches in the debate on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2013 (VAD Bill) and survey of many new candidates. Because of our limited resources, we did not contact everyone, particularly those from minor Parties and independents. We did not contact all Greens candidates because we assumed support (please check this directly with any candidates). Kevin Morgan was contacted for the position of the Palmer United Party (PUP) and his own position but did not reply. The only other PUP candidate contacted was Barbara Etter. Craig Davey was contacted for the National Party and his own position but did not reply.

We also obtained information from other sources, eg election material and surveys by other groups including religious lobby groups against the legislation, particularly Family Values Australia (FVA) (the re-named Festival of Light).<sup>i</sup>

In the table below, those in support are highlighted. We recommend that you also consider the additional information because in some cases the support was "in principle" and there were provisos which are concerning. In most cases, the quotes are a limited part of their responses. If as a member you would like to see any responses in full, please contact us. See our last newsletter for a summary of the vote and debate on the VAD Bill. 'No response' means we contacted them but had no reply.

#### **DENISON**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Party/ Ind</b>	<b>View</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Deborah De Williams	Liberal	Support	In phone conversation, she demonstrated very clearly her in-depth understanding of the issue and its personal relevance. She said she was "100% in support", and among other things, identified her personal wish to be spared from pain and for her family to be spared from seeing her go through pain, if that was to happen to her.

Robert Mallett	Liberal	Support	He referred to a personal experience and stated his belief that “the individual is the only person who can make this decision. As a principle, I support the individual to have the right to do with their own body, whatever they want to, as long as it doesn't have any negative consequences on people near to them. ... a controlled, thought out, discussed and managed exit, not throwing yourself off a cliff in a party of friends.”
Rene Kling	Liberal	Unclear	He provided a long and thoughtful response in which he concluded he was “just not ready to support this in Tasmania at this stage”. After receiving more information, he replied again in some detail and stated: “I can guarantee you that if elected, and legislation comes forward in relation to euthanasia, I will very carefully consider the legislation and exercise my conscience vote accordingly.”
Elise Archer	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Matthew Groom	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Scott Bacon	Labor	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill
Sharon Carnes	Labor	Support	“When the legislation was first put forward, I took the time to research it and was confident that the Bill was sound and that it provided appropriate measures to protect individuals. If I'm elected on March 15, I will fully support the legislation if it is reintroduced into the Parliament.”
Julian Amos	Labor	Support	Reported by member of DwDTas: Dr Amos’ response to her query on where he stands on voluntary euthanasia legislation: “My position is based on the principle that is an individual's right to choose their own circumstance. As such, I would support a person's right to determine their time and choice of death.”
Madeleine Ogilvie	Labor	Does not support	See FAV survey which records her response as would definitely vote “against any proposal that would facilitate the intentional killing of patients by health professionals”.
Alphonse Mulumba	Labor	Does not support	See FAV survey. Same as Ms Ogilvie.
Cassie O’Connor	Greens	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill

Barbara Etter	PUP	Unclear	“PUP candidates are able to have a conscience vote on such matters. I have a personal view but, if elected, will be canvassing the views of the electorate, before making a final decision.” In another response after a further query to her, she referred to her values of “integrity, justice and humanity” and stated “Please be assured that I would very carefully consider this issue and would respect the rights of individuals whilst also considering the broader public interest.”
Hans Willink	Ind Lib	Support	Pamphlet says he supports “euthanasia”.

### FRANKLIN

Sue Bastone	Liberal	Support	She provided information of personal experiences and stated “I have always been on the record as supporting a bill on dying with dignity”, has spoken publicly for it and against the “‘apparent’ block voting by Liberals in Parliament”. “You may be assured that if I am lucky enough to be elected it is a bill that I will champion.”
Will Hodgman	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Jacque Petrusma	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Paul Harriss	Liberal		No response
Nic Street	Liberal		No response
Lara Giddings	Labor	Support	Moved the VAD Bill with Nick McKim and has very strong commitment to it.
David O’Byrne	Labor	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill
Julie Dick	Labor	Support	“Had I been an MP in the last parliament I would have voted for the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2013 and I give in-principle support to voting for future Dying with Dignity legislation.”
Heather Chong	Labor		No response
Russell Mitchell	Labor		No contact made
Nick McKim	Greens	Support	Moved the VAD Bill with Lara Giddings and has very strong commitment to it.

### LYONS

Rene Hidding	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Mark Shelton	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Guy Barnett	Liberal	Does not support	

Bertrand Cadart	Liberal		No response
Martyn Evans	Liberal		No response
Rebecca White	Labor	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill
Darren Clark	Labor	Support	"I will be supporting Dying with Dignity if elected, I would like to see constraints on age and reasons that people can access the legislation."
Jessey Dillon	Labor	Unclear	In a response to FAV, he indicated he was "unlikely" to vote against legislation.
David Llewellyn	Labor	Does not support	Vote and speech on Dying with Dignity Bill 2009
Bob Gordon	Labor		No response
Craig Davey	NP		No response for self or National Party

### BASS

Leonie McNair	Liberal	Support	She provided a lengthy response including "My personal view supports in principle the right of a person to die with dignity." She also showed her commitment to what is a voluntary choice which shouldn't be denied because some don't want it. "I am well aware of how fraught with difficulties this issue would be to implement and I would need to be comfortable with these matters before supporting a particular piece of legislation." However, she also said there were "many other critical issues to address" including restoring the economy, "before addressing issues of social reform". After follow-up with her on this matter she stated: "Whilst we need to look after the dying, the living also need our help. It would be neglectful to do otherwise."
Barry Jarvis	Liberal	Unclear	"As I told the Liberal members when my nomination was accepted to be a candidate on any conscience vote I would consult as best I could with my electorate weigh that up with my beliefs and vote accordingly. If you follow my voting record in local government I do not just follow the pack."
Peter Gutwein	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Michael Ferguson	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Sarah Courtney	Liberal		No response
Michelle O'Byrne	Labor	Support	Voted for VAD Bill at the second reading stage but indicated she needed to be satisfied the

			safeguards were adequate.
Adam Gore	Labor	Support	He referred to a family experience and stated: "I have no problem agreeing to this legislation".
Brian Wightman	Labor	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Andrew Connor	Labor		No response
Senka Mujkic	Labor		No response
Kim Booth	Greens	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill

### BRADDON

Kyron Howell	Liberal	Support	He rang me and from that conversation, I'm convinced that he understands the issue, has in principle support and would be very likely to support a Bill.
Jeremy Rockliff	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Adam Brooks	Liberal	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill. Despite saying he was in support in-principle, he voted to prevent further debate on his stated concerns about details of the Bill.
Roger Jaensch	Liberal		No response
Joan Rylah	Liberal		No response
Brian Green	Labor	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill
Justine Keay	Labor	Support	"Should I have been elected to Parliament at the time of the VAD Bill, or if elected to the next Parliament that may debate this Bill, I would have and will support this important reform of providing people with choice."
Brenton Best	Labor	Does not support	Spoke and voted against VAD Bill
Shane Broad	Labor		No response
Darryl Bessell	Labor		FVA survey - "Unlikely" to vote against legislation
Paul O'Halloran	Greens	Support	Voted and spoke for VAD Bill
Kevin Morgan	PUP		No response for self or PUP

Prepared and authorised by Margaret Sing, President, Dying with Dignity Tasmania.

<sup>1</sup> For full details of their survey statements, questions and responses, go to <http://www.fava.org.au/election-survey-tasmania-2014/election-survey-tasmania-2014-q4/>. There is information in the FVA survey of the views of other candidates opposed to voluntary assisted dying legislation, including PUP candidates, Debra Thurley and Mark Grewar, and others including Kevin Swarts, Ray Kroeze, Andrew Roberts and Lucas Brett.