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MEDIA RELEASE

MR RANJAN RAY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA SOCIETY (INC) (WAVES) SAID TODAY THAT WAVES WILL SEEK LEAVE TO APPEAR AS "AMICUS CURAEI" OR A FRIEND OF THE COURT IN THE MATTER OF BRIGHTWATER CARE GROUP (INC) AND CHRISTIAN ROSSITER. MR RAY SAID HE BELIEVED WAVES HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AS CHRISTIAN ROSSITER FIRST APPROACHED WAVES SOME MONTHS AGO SEEKING ADVICE AS TO WHAT ALTERNATIVES HE HAD TO ALLEVIATE HIS SUFFERING AND END HIS LIFE.

IF SUCCESSFUL IN ITS BID TO APPEAR AS AMICUS CURAEI WAVES WILL SUBMIT THAT IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN COMMON LAW THAT A COMPETENT ADULT HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE MEDICAL TREATMENT. MORE IMPORTANTLY WAVES WILL ARGUE THAT IT IS NOW RECOGNISED IN LEGISLATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA .

MR RAY SAID THAT THE ACTS AMENDMENT (CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT) ACT 2008 ENABLED A PERSON WHO HAS REACHED 18 YEARS AND HAS FULL CAPACITY TO PREPARE AN ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE WHICH WOULD BE LEGALLY BINDING. THIS DIRECTIVE WILL ALLOW A PERSON TO SPECIFY WHAT TREATMENT DECISIONS THEY WANT TO BE MADE WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THEMSELVES. UNDER THE ACT, TREATMENT DECISIONS INCLUDE DECISIONS TO REFUSE THE COMMENCEMENT OR CONTINUATION OF TREATMENT INCLUDING LIFE SUSTAINING MEASURES.

MR RAY SAID WAVES WILL SUBMIT THAT MR ROSSITER SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER WESTERN AUSTRALIANS AS RECOGNISED IN THIS ACT.

CONTACT DETAILS

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