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MEDIA RELEASE

Western Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society welcomes Chief Justice Wayne Martin's judgement at the Supreme Court today confirming Christian Rossiter's right to refuse any treatment, including artificial nutrition and hydration, and the Brightwater Nursing Homes obligation to respect that wish.

WAVES has always believed that under Common Law every competent person has a right to refuse any treatment even if that wish results in the death of the person concerned. The recent judgement confirms that belief and in the process sets an important precedent.

Having agreed that Christian Rossiter has an inherent right to starve himself to death, we deplore the fact that he can not be helped to achieve a gentle, peaceful and swift end. The Court can not help him, but the Parliament certainly can and it is time the politicians took their heads out of the sand and did something positive to help the unfortunate people in Mr Rossiter's position.

Ranjan Ray
President
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14th August, 2009.