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20<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

### **Media Release**

West Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society deplores the situation in this State where persons like Christian Rossiter are forced to prolong their miserable lives just because the politicians are too frightened to take a bold decision – a decision that more than 80% of the State's population would like them to make.

While the Common Law provisions may allow patients like Christian to request withdrawal or withholding of treatment, it unfortunately does not allow him to end his life peacefully, gently and certainly not swiftly. There is an urgent need for a compassionate parliament, an understanding polity and a courageous government with the foresight to respond to the wishes of a sympathetic public.

In the meanwhile all Christian can do is to wait for the law to be proclaimed and then find a sympathetic doctor who will do his bidding. While we compliment the Government in passing the Acts Amendment (Consent to Medical Treatment) Act 2008, we are disturbed at the delay in proclaiming the law. The Minister for Health seems to have put the cart before the horse; surely the proclamation need not have waited for the education process (for those who need it). One of the reasons for the delay is supposed to be lack of funding. What supreme irony, lack of funds makes a person live on in misery so that it costs the State even more money to treat him against his wishes.

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