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Media Release

The West Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society welcomes the move by Brightwater Group to ask the Supreme Court to clarify the legal position with respect to Christian Rossiter.

This Society has always held the view that persons, who are suffering from a condition from which they are unlikely to recover, should have the right to a peaceful and gentle death at a time of their choosing. In the absence of a sensible law to give effect to that right, persons like Christian Rossiter has only one option and that is to refuse any artificial nutrition and hydration, and literally starve himself to death.

While we deplore this state of affairs, we feel that it is time to clarify the legal position. If the politicians are too frightened to act, the Court, we hope will come to Christian's aid and give a ruling on the subject. If Christian has the right to refuse treatment, how can anyone be charged for complying with his request?

This Society would like the law-enforcers to clarify what constitutes aiding and abetting suicide. The Society would also like the Criminal Code to be amended to allow aiding suicide under certain circumstances.

Let us be a compassionate society, a caring society and a humane society. To allow a person to be kept alive in the sort of state that Christian Rossiter is in is neither Christian nor civilised.

Ranjan Ray
President
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6th August, 2009.