

WAVES NEWS
Articles to Website

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Letters to the Editor

MY BODY, MY BUSINESS

I have just read my latest WAVES NEWS and would like to add my support to M. Hindle's comments.

I am rapidly becoming one of those angry old women who objects to being told that she has to leave control of her body to someone else.

"My body, my business" has been my catch cry for years. I run my own home. I decide what I will spend my money on, where I will spend my holidays, what programme I will watch on the TV, when I will go out, stay in, or go to bed or get up, put my pets down when they are suffering and any of the myriad other things that constitutes living. So why do I have to answer to someone else about my manner and time of dying?

Mrs R Browne, Rivervale

POLITICIANS SHOULD REPRESENT THEIR ELECTORS

In The West Australian of 24th January 2006 Dr Kim Hames MLA, member for Dawesville and Shadow Minister for Health, was quoted as saying that, given Mr Carpenter's support and the public backing, evident in the Westpoll, for voluntary euthanasia, a bill should be put to the Parliament. He went on to say that the Liberal MPs will have a conscience vote and that he personally was against euthanasia.

My question is: what conscience is Dr Hames talking about? Local politicians are elected to represent their electorate, not their own conscience. If there is a conflict, the member should either resign or accurately reflect his/her constituents' views.

What is intriguing is that Dr Hames, being a physician and holding the Health portfolio, recognises the overwhelming community support for voluntary euthanasia and yet feels that he can go against it because his conscience dictates it.

People of Dawesville are entitled to ask whether Dr Hames represents them or his conscience.

Our politicians are a cautious lot and unless we make it clear to them that we want them to vote as we want them to, they would try to worm their way out and vote according to their own advantage. It is time that we made it quite clear to our representatives that either they vote as we want them to, or they risk losing our support and vote.

Dawesville residents are entitled to ask Dr Hames that question.

*WAVES member
Name supplied*

WA PREMIER PLEDGES SUPPORT

The following letter, written by our President to the Editor of the West Australian (25th January 2006), is noteworthy to print for those who missed it:

It was very encouraging to read the opinion attributed to the Premier-elect in your paper regarding voluntary euthanasia. Mr Carpenter was quoted as saying that " ... *if people have a terminal illness and want - at the appropriate time - to end their lives, I support that right unequivocally*". We cannot ask for any more.

We call on the Government to discuss the issues openly and take a very close look at the legislation. Let us have an open, honest, frank and meaningful discussion about the end-of-life choices.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society would like to remind everyone that the subject is and should be a gently and peaceful death with dignity at the person's own wish, and how to achieve that.

*Ranjan Ray, President
WA Voluntary Euthanasia Society*