



Dear Members

Welcome to the New Year and we at DWDQ trust you all enjoyed the festive season and wish you all a very happy, safe and healthy 2015! We value your membership and support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

We would like to remind you all of the date, time and place for the first general meetings for 2015. We hope as many of you as possible will attend these meetings to start the year with a bang, get updates about political parties policies on Physician Assisted Death (PAD) and the Dying with Dignity Draft Exposure Bill that Victorian Senator Richard Di Natale aims to put before Federal Senate.

**DWDQ General Meeting - Thursday, February 12th 2015
11am – 1:30pm
Brisbane Square Library**

**Sunshine Coast Meeting - the third Wednesday of every month.
Please contact Beryl for details - 5474 0979**

**Gold Coast Meetings - Friday 13 March & Saturday 14 March
with Marshall Perron as guest speaker**

RSVP's to attend the Gold Coast meetings are essential

RSVP's to Kerry Jackson on 0408 747 574

A political year ahead for DWDQ

This year will see some political activity on your behalf on this issue that we all believe is so important. Despite the fact that the Premier has given very short notice of the date of the next Queensland election, DWDQ has written to survey **all candidates across all parties** re their stance of physician assisted dying (PAD).

This is what we asked them:

*We seek your attitude toward well-drafted, responsible PAD legislation:
If elected, would you support the introduction of such legislation? Yes/No*

An identical letter was sent to Campbell Newman and Anastacia Palaszczuk. This letter included an additional question:

As party leader, will you give a commitment to allow your Members of Parliament a genuine conscience vote on responsible PAD legislation that comes before parliament? Yes/No

We will collate all responses received and notify you in due course.

Qld Election – votecompass

Over 78,000 Queenslanders have used this website to lodge their views and wishes for the forthcoming Qld Parliament. Take a moment to Google **votecompass** then open the Qld Election 2015 site.

We believe it is the first time that this type of survey has included a question on voluntary euthanasia (PAD - physician assisted dying)

Federal Senate

As you know, DWDQ, in collaboration with the national umbrella organisation of dying with dignity societies **YourLastRight.com** (YLR) is working with the office of Senator Di Natale to effect significant improvements to the *Dying with Dignity Draft Exposure Bill* that Senator Di Natale aims to put before the full Senate. We have reported to you before that this draft has many flaws and omissions and in its current form would not be acceptable as well-crafted, responsible PAD legislation suitable to debate in parliament.

As we have also reported before, there is absolutely no guarantee that this Federal Bill will succeed in being passed. Even if it were, legal advice informs us that there will be a very strong likelihood of it being challenged in the Australian High Court. If that happens, it will prevent any further attempts at legislation at the State level for many years to come.

DWDQ along with all other YLR member groups has drafted a document outlining all the relevant and necessary principles that quality PAD legislation should incorporate. These principles are a collation of the best legislative efforts from around the world and from previous draft legislation that has been presented to parliaments in other Australian States and Territories.

DWDQ will continue to collaborate with whomever it may be necessary in political and legal circles to get legislation drafted to present to the Queensland State Parliament.

Apologies for the short newsletter, but the sudden announcement of the State election has made that a necessity. Be assured that the DWDQ committee are busy canvassing candidates.

Jos Hall - President Dying with Dignity QLD.

PS – National Seniors hosted a forum on 21 Jan where candidates from LNP, ALP and The Greens were invited to speak on issues relating to seniors.

Speakers were:-

- Jo-Ann Miller (ALP) Shadow Minister for Health, Natural Resources and Mines.
- Tracy Davis MP (LNP) Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.
- Jenny Mulkearns (The Greens) Candidate for Mount Ommaney.

There was overwhelming applause from the audience when the speakers were asked whether they support PAD.

Jo-Anne Miller (ALP) and Tracey Davis (LNP) both said that their Party Policies did not support the legalisation of PAD (Physician assisted Death).

Jenny Mulkearns (The Greens) said that her Party does support PAD with appropriate legal safeguards.

URGENT – we need someone who can help with our DWDQ QLD facebook page.

PLS get back to me – jos.hall99@gmail.com / 3122 7193 / 0410 557 359