

**Dying with Dignity**

New South Wales



# President's Report

**Sarah Edelman**



# Welcome




# Today

- Apologies
- Minutes of AGM 5 April, 2016
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Committee
- Question & Answer Time

## **AFTERNOON TEA**

- Prof Colleen Cartwright



# Apologies

# Minutes of last AGM

## DYING WITH DIGNITY - New South Wales

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Saturday 28 May 2016 in the Mitchell Theatre  
Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

1. The Meeting was OPENED at 1.05 pm by the President, Sarah Edelman, who welcomed everyone on this rather damp day, especially those who had come from well out of the Sydney metropolitan area, such as Lismore, Bowral and the Central Coast.

2. **PRESENT:** Sarah Edelman (Chair) and 84 members and 8 visitors, as recorded on the separate Attendance Sheets.

3. **APOLOGIES:** Philip Busfield (Treasurer) and 24 other members as recorded on the separate Apologies Sheet.

MOTION: That the Apologies be accepted.

Nizza Piano/Judith Maher/Carried

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held 23 May 2015** were tabled.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be confirmed.

Belinda Bradley/Max Prince/Carried

5. **THANKS:** Sarah Edelman thanked Gabrielle Brown for all her work as Administrator, including dealing with finances. This Vote of Thanks was supported by acclamation.

Sarah also thanked the Committee members, and all members and supporters, including those who had given financial support. There had been an encouraging response to the fund-raising appeal at the end of last year.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Sarah reported on a full year, mentioning particularly the following points:

# The Society has developed over the last eight years or so from a fairly passive organisation to one that is committed and active.

# The AMA is considering changing to a neutral stance on the issue of VAD, which would be a significant development.

# The next year will see several Bills coming to various state



# Committee Nominations

- Sarah Edelman (President)
- Shayne Higson (Vice President)
- Philip Busfield (Treasurer)
- Dee Johnson
- Liz Jacka
- Judith Daley
- Penny Hackett
- Fiona Jackson
- Geoff Usher



# Special Thank You

- Helen Harris
- Gabrielle Brown
- Luke Cornish





# Our Board

- Strategic, hard working, collaborative
- Active!!
- Campaign strategy subcommittee
- We are all volunteers
- Meetings with politicians and stakeholders.





## DWDnsw – Other news

- New Constitution
- Didn't get DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status
- Active regional groups
- New website
- Social media presence: Facebook, Twitter, change.org petition.

# Social Media

The image displays two overlapping web pages. The top page is a Facebook profile for 'Dying with Dignity NSW' (@dwdnsw.org.au). The profile picture is a blue silhouette of a bird in flight. The page features a video player with the title '"Don't leave me trapped in a dying body."' and a subtitle 'When I was first diagnosed I was devastated'. Below the video are two smaller video thumbnails: one showing a harbor with sailboats and another titled 'John Gayson's story'. The right sidebar contains information about the page, including 'Medical & Health in Broadway', a search bar, and a description: 'Show your support for the right of mentally competent adults with unrelievable suffering from terminal or incurable illnesses to choose an assisted death.' The page has 5,399 likes. The bottom page is the Change.org website, featuring a world map background and the text 'The world's platform for change' and '179,941,519 people taking action. Victories every day.' with a red 'Start a petition' button.

**Facebook Page: Dying with Dignity NSW**

- Profile: Dying with Dignity NSW (@dwdnsw.org.au)
- Category: Medical & Health in Broadway
- Description: Show your support for the right of mentally competent adults with unrelievable suffering from terminal or incurable illnesses to choose an assisted death.
- Likes: 5,399 Likes (Victoria Thompson and 5 other friends like this)
- Contact: (02) 9212 4782, www.dwdnsw.org.au
- Organization Type: Medical & Health - Non-Profit Organization

**Change.org Website**

- Tagline: The world's platform for change
- Impact: 179,941,519 people taking action. Victories every day.
- Call to Action: Start a petition

# Tasmania

- ➔ Bill defeated in House of Assembly on 24 May
- ➔ **8 in favour:** 4 Labor, 3 Green, 1 Lib
- ➔ **16 against:** 13 Liberals, 3 Labor
- ➔ 'unintended consequences', 'the message it sends to suicidal teenagers'.
- ➔ Health Minister: *'We've said every suicide is too many, yet before us is a bill that would sanction suicide.'*

# Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 (NSW)

- Terminal Illness, likely to result in death within 12 months
- Severe unrelievable pain, suffering or physical incapacity to extent deemed unacceptable to the patient
- At least 25 years of age
- Primary and secondary medical practitioner
- Assessment by psychiatrist or psychologist
- Family members can challenge in Supreme Court
- Self-administer, or be assisted to administer
- 48 hr cooling off period; can change mind at any time.

# NSW Bill



- Exposure Draft → Upper House debate in August or September
- Need 21 votes (out of 42)
- If it passes in Upper House → Lower House debate in October-December 2017, OR February/March 2018.
- Need need 47 votes (out of 93) in Lower House.





# How can I help?

- ▶ Letters to MLAs and MLCs
- ▶ Snail mail, handwritten is best. Can be typed
- ▶ Visits to politicians
- ▶ Phone calls to politicians
- ▶ Personal stories. Why this bill is important to you.



# Our Campaign

## Two tiers:

- Engage public and build support (media)
- Meet with and lobby MPs who will be voting on the bill.



One good personal story  
is worth more than  
a thousand good arguments



# Personal stories are the key





# On Q&A ...



**"Bulls\*\*\*!"**



*Thank you!*