

Dying with Dignity NSW – Summary of Directors for 2018 AGM

HISTORICAL: Directors serving from 27 May 2017 AGM to 17 March 2018 AGM

Dr Sarah Edelman – President and Public Officer
Ms Shayne Higson – Vice-President
Mr Philip Busfield – Treasurer
Ms Deirdre (Dee) Johnson – Company Secretary

Ms Judith Daley
Ms Penny Hackett
Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Jacka
Ms Fiona Jackson
Rev. Geoffrey Usher

LOOKING FORWARD: Directors nominated for 2018-19 at this AGM

Dr Sarah Edelman will not re-nominate as board member
All other Directors have re-nominated for the board.
Ms Penny Hackett has nominated for the position of President.
Ms Shayne Higson has re-nominated for the position of Vice-President.
Mr Philip Busfield has re-nominated for the position of Treasurer.
As we have received no other nominations they will be elected unopposed.

Details of Individual Directors re-nominating at this AGM



Ms Penny Hackett BEc LLB (Hons), GAIDC has worked as a lawyer in the financial services and banking industries for over 25 years and is presently legal advisor to a funds management and corporate finance business with a focus on corporate governance and compliance. Penny has professional qualifications in governance and is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Penny has been heavily involved in the not-for-profit sector over the last 10 years particularly the areas of public education funding and student capacity in NSW public schools and is also involved in a peak body for resident's groups lobbying local, state and federal government on a range of issues affecting her local community. Penny devoted much of 2017 to the campaign in support of the NSW VAD Bill. Penny is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW. DWD NSW Board Member from 27 February 2017. Nominating for position of **DWD NSW President** at this AGM.



Ms Shayne Higson is a photographic artist who usually expresses her opinions through her visual art. However, following the death of her mother from brain cancer in 2012, she became a passionate and vocal supporter of dying with dignity law reform. In the 2013 Federal election Shayne ran as the lead NSW Senate candidate for the newly formed Voluntary Euthanasia Party (VEP). She was the driving force behind the formation of the NSW branch of the VEP in 2014 and ran as their lead candidate in the 2015 NSW Election. Shayne ran for the Senate again in the 2016 Federal election. She then joined Andrew Denton's lobbying organisation Go Gentle Australia to help with the 2016 South Australian campaign. In 2017 Shayne left Go Gentle Australia to focus all her energy on our campaign in support of the NSW VAD Bill. Shayne is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW. DWD NSW Board Member from 3 August 2016. **DWD NSW Vice-President** from 27 May 2017.



Mr Philip Busfield M.A. (Hons) Cambridge University (Mathematics) is a Risk and Finance consultant to the Private Equity and Banking industry. He has three decades of experience in various senior executive roles in merchant banking and investment, and continues to provide management consultancy. Most recently Philip has chaired a charity for Parkinson's sufferers, been actively involved in local community regeneration projects, and is the Co-Chair of Sydney-based charity Twenty10. Philip was the Treasurer of Dying in Dignity UK for a three year term ending May 2014. DWD NSW Board Member and **Treasurer from 5 April 2014.**



Ms Dee (Deirdre) Johnson B App Sc (Computing) has had extensive experience in general management and organisational process. She was a founding Director and shareholder of a group of companies supplying Information Technology Solutions and Services to the Professional Accounting market. Dee has provided her financial management skills as a volunteer for the Voluntary Euthanasia Party and Go Gentle Australia. She is a firm believer in an individual's right to choose their own destiny. Dee is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW. Vice-President from 5 April 2014 to 27 May 2017. **Company Secretary from 13 August 2013. DWD NSW Board Member from 5 April 2014.**



Ms Judith Daley MBus (Industrial Relations) believes voluntary assisted dying is a fundamental human right. Her late partner Bob had a rare heart condition and they were forced to focus on his possible imminent death on many, many occasions. Judith herself has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and so has the same concerns about the nature of her own death. Since retirement from the public service, Judith worked with the Older Women's Network, the Retirement Village Residents Association and the Aged Care Alliance for NCOSS and also works as an actress. Judith is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW. **DWD NSW Board Member from 12 February 2015.**



Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Jacka BA (Auck), BSc (Auck), PhD (Syd) is a retired Professor of Communications (UTS) where she is currently an Emeritus Professor. For most of her working life, Liz was an academic, initially in the field of philosophy and later in media and communications. She has several years of experience working in media policy and regulation for the commonwealth public service. In 2013 Liz provided research support and advice to Cate Faehrmann MLC when she presented 2013 VAD Bill to the NSW Upper House. Liz devoted much of 2017 to the campaign in support of the NSW VAD Bill. Liz is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW. **DWD NSW Board Member from 5 April 2014.**



Fiona Jackson BA Comm., Adv Grad Dip Counselling & Psychotherapy is an experienced fundraiser and marketer who has worked in both London and Sydney with clients including Alzheimer's Research UK, ActionAid, World Vision, Barnardos, Cure Brain Cancer, Muscular Dystrophy UK and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia. Fiona is the Head of Marketing at CareFlight. She is passionate about having choice at end of life and is committed to law reform to achieve this goal. **DWD NSW Board Member from 21 September 2015.**



Reverend Geoffrey Usher is a retired Unitarian minister, a former teacher and professional actor. Geoff served on the Committee of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of NSW for several years during the 1980s before his work took him to England. Geoff returned to live in Sydney in early 2011 and is an Associate Minister of the Spirit of Life Unitarian Fellowship and a committee member of the NSW Dickens Society. **DWD NSW Board Member from 20 April 2013.**

Farewell to the outgoing President of DWD NSW



Dr Sarah Edelman B Ec., Dip.Ed, MA (Psych), PhD is a clinical psychologist, author and trainer. Sarah's PhD was in psycho-oncology, and she became a passionate supporter of end of life choices whilst running therapy groups for women with advanced breast cancer. In her clinical work Sarah specialises in the treatment of anxiety disorders, psycho-physiological dizziness and somatisation disorders. Sarah also runs mental health training programs for psychologists, GPs and business organisations. Sarah teaches at Sydney University Centre for Continuing Education. Her book *Change your Thinking*, now in its third edition, is a best seller in the self-help genre (ABC Books). She is a Life Member of Dying with Dignity NSW
Appointed to DWD NSW Board 13 April 2008.
Vice-President from 22 March 2009 to 5th April 2014.
DWD NSW President from 5 April 2014 to 17 March 2018.

Thank you Sarah for your great contribution to our organisation over ten years. Following are Penny Hackett's words of farewell to Sarah in our latest newsletter: "We are emotional as we farewell our outgoing DWD NSW President, Dr Sarah Edelman, who has given such a huge amount of time, energy and expertise to our cause as a director for the last ten years. As our President since 2014, Sarah has led us through the most active and productive phase of our organisation's 45 year history and her high profile and professional standing (as a leading clinical psychologist and writer) have contributed greatly to our credibility as we advocate for law reform.

Sarah has been an excellent speaker at our public events and during interviews with the media. She sees the 'big picture' whilst also having great attention to detail. We will miss her leadership, but appreciate that this is the right time for her to step back and focus on writing more best-selling books, running her clinical practice, playing bridge and spending time with her husband and their friends."



Best wishes Sarah.
We will really miss you.

