



Media Release

Elderly Reject Government Censorship of Euthanasia Workshop

In what is a first in the 10 years that Euthanasia Campaigner Dr Philip Nitschke has held end-of-life choices workshops all around Australia, the Qld Government sent Compliance Investigator Tamsin Mellor to attend the workshop at Brisbane Square Library last Friday.

Outlining her legal right to attend the workshop (despite the fact that she is neither terminally ill nor aged 50 years or over), Ms Mellor explained that she represented the state arm of the Office of Film and Literature Classification. Acting on instruction from the department of former Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, she explained it was her job to ensure that the now-banned *Peaceful Pill Handbook* would not be displayed/ sold and that the YouTube.com video – The Single Shot – would not be shown.

Those attending the workshop – average age 75 years - were understandably annoyed when Ms Mellor told them she was there to defend legislation which had as its intent “ the protection of children and families.”

“You take this message back to your political masters – you tell them that we might be old, but we’re not stupid! Most of us here were born in the 1920s, we’ve gone through depression and war. We are grown adults and we have every right to listen to Dr Nitschke without interference” said Exit member Bill 85 years.

Dr Nitschke said that the behaviour of the Qld government was “regrettable. In all my years of running these workshops we have never had a government officer attend with the sole aim of censorship.

“This lack of respect for free speech will simply force the workshops underground into peoples’ garages and lounge rooms. Elderly people believe it is their right to access accurate, factual end of life choices information. I can’t see them putting up with this big brother approach to what they can and can’t read or watch or hear in their later years.

Ms Mellor insisted on remaining for the entirety of the workshop despite being assured that the *Peaceful Pill Handbook* would not be displayed/ sold (it has not been displayed/ sold by Exit International since it was banned in February 2007) and that the YouTube.com video would not be shown.

Although Dr Nitschke has raised questions about the need for all YouTube.com home videos to be classified prior to being shown in public, and not just those posted by Exit International.

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