



# Media Release

## Euthanasia Workshop Threatened with Government Censure

Following a formal warning from WA Attorney General Jim McGinty, voluntary euthanasia workshop convenor Philip Nitschke says he is prepared for more government censorship of his workshops scheduled to be held this week in Perth and Bunbury.

Acting on formal advice from then Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, the comments from Mr McGinty follow movements in South Australia last month by police who announced their intention to attend a workshop of Dr Nitschke, and the attendance at a workshop in Brisbane last week by a Queensland government compliance officer whose role it was to prohibit the screening of the unclassified YouTube film.

Interest in the workshops has also been recorded from the ACT government with a workshop scheduled to be held in the nation's capital in the week before Christmas.

In a letter sent to Exit International by the AG's Department in October, it was stated that the screening of an unclassified film in a public place represents a breach of the Classification Act. The letter also reminded Dr Nitschke of the penalties associated with the sale of a banned book. Under current Australian laws, the seller of a banned book can face a fine of \$26,000 and a jail term of 2 years.

*The Peaceful Pill Handbook* was approved for sale in Australia in December 2006 only to have this decision overturned on appeal by Philip Ruddock in February 2007.

"The former Federal government (often with the support of the Labor Party) have done all they can to remove elderly and terminally ill Australians right to know about their end-of-life choices. Not only was the Northern Territory's Rights of the Terminally Ill Act overturned some 10 years ago this year, but the Customs Act was amended and the newer Suicide Related Materials Offences Act was introduced which bans the use of the telephone to discuss voluntary euthanasia.

This big brother attitude to our workshops not only tramples on our right to free speech but is forcing 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 accepting governments – state or Federal – telling them what they can and can't read, watch or hear in their later years.

Workshops are scheduled for the Citiplace Community Centre in Perth on Tuesday 11 (1pm) and Saturday 15 December (10am) and at the Lighthouse Resort on Thursday 13 December (9.30am). Participants must be aged 50 years and over. Enquiries 1300 10 EXIT (3948). Exit International is a non-profit organization.

**For Information: Dr Philip Nitschke, 0407 189 339**

**Date: 9 Dec, 2007**

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