



# Media Release

## Steve Guest dies using Peaceful Pill

Cancer sufferer Steve Guest died peacefully in July 2005 after obtaining his own Peaceful Pill. He died from an overdose of lethal liquid Nembutal- the Peaceful Pill – a drug that guarantees the person who takes it a peaceful and reliable death.

Commenting on the death today, Exit Director Philip Nitschke who talked with Steve immediately prior to his death in Port Lonsdale, said that Steve's death highlighted the importance of being prepared when one is facing serious illness.

Steve attended an Exit workshops in April 05 and knew what he needed", Dr Nitschke said, "but problems develop when people become so ill that they then have to ask someone else to obtain the drug for them".

By the time he went public in July, stating to Jon Faine:

"I'm dying an awful death of cancer. I want a pill in the cupboard that I can reach for and take it, and end this nightmare that I'm living at the moment."

It had been left too late, now he needed to involve others.

Dr Nitschke said, "If people are prepared to make that trip to Mexico and get that precious drug, put it in the cupboard, then they will know they will not have to face the situation of searching desperately at the last minute for someone prepared to assist them."

"Of the 20 Australian's heading overseas in the next few months to obtain this drug, Dr Nitschke said several were from Victoria and many had been influenced by the circumstances surrounding Steve Guest's death.

Dr Nitschke said that the content of the final discussion he had with Steve the day before he died would not be made public until police investigations were complete.

For Information: Dr Philip Nitschke 0407 189 339 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

END