



MEDIA RELEASE

Seized Euthanasia Equipment returned by NZ Customs

New Zealand customs announced today that they would be returning seized items of euthanasia equipment confiscated from Exit International Director Dr Philip Nitschke at Auckland International airport on 31 Jan this year.

The equipment to be returned includes the coffee pot, the reaction vessel that features in the *YouTube* "Single Shot" Peaceful Pill video.

Other returned items include the helium flow control fitting used with the Exit Bag that featured in the "Doing it With Betty", *YouTube* film. These items were intended for display at Exit workshops.

The two confiscated copies of the NZ edition of the banned "Peaceful Pill Handbook" have now been forwarded to the office of the chief censor Bill Hastings for assessment.

Speaking from San Diego, Dr Nitschke said that he was glad that common sense had finally prevailed and that the items had been returned

"It is a pity we had to go through this, the items were clearly not prohibited items and their seizure has caused considerable inconvenience, making it much more difficult for elderly New Zealanders to see and understand some of the practical issues surrounding end of life choices."

With the loss of these items and the requirement that the *YouTube* videos not be screened in a "New Zealand public place", the workshops were less effective.

Nevertheless, around 200 New Zealanders attended the 4 workshop program, with over half of those attending becoming members of Exit.

The next visit will likely be in July when it is hoped that the New Zealand edition of "The Peaceful Pill Handbook" will have received clearance from the NZ censor for distribution