



PRESS RELEASE

1st Voluntary Euthanasia Workshops for 2008 to be Held Hervey Bay & Bribie Island

In his first visit in five years, Voluntary Euthanasia activist and Director of Exit International, Dr Philip Nitschke will visit Hervey Bay to hold a public meeting and workshop on the changing face of the Voluntary Euthanasia debate on Tuesday 22 January.

Fresh from his recent Federal Election campaign where Dr Nitschke stood in the Melbourne seat of Menzies against former Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews, the public meeting will examine where the issue of end of life choices has come in the past half decade. The meeting will be followed by a workshop which will examine the more specific issues of approaches; including the legal Swiss option, drugs from overseas and the Exit Bag.

The Hervey Bay meeting will be followed by Exit's inaugural meeting at Bribie Island on Wednesday 23 January.

Interest in both meetings has been intense and large crowds are expected.

The average age of attendees at Dr Nitschke's voluntary euthanasia workshops is 75 years. The vast majority say they attend because they want to know their end of life choices and want to be prepared for the future – just in case things turn bad.

“Amongst this generation there is a fairly strong aversion to nursing homes. Time and time again I hear of people say ‘as soon as I can't look after myself, I want out’ and this is a view point I empathise with” said Dr Nitschke.

“I realise voluntary euthanasia is not for everyone, but it is a choice to which I believe everyone is entitled. The mainly well elderly who attend our meetings approach the issue as an insurance policy. Just like they pre-plan and prepay for their funerals so they want some say in how they might die.”

The Hervey Bay public meeting and workshop will be held at the Hervey Bay Senior Citizens Hall at 1.30pm on Tuesday 22 January.

The Bribie Island public meeting and workshop will be held at the Bongaree Bowls Club at 1pm on Wednesday 23 January.