

Public Symposium

Dying With Dignity — Bridging Principles and Practice

Registration from 8:15am, Symposium 9am – 5:35pm Friday 8th October 2010
Carlton Room, Rydges on Swanston, 701 Swanston Street, Carlton, Victoria

Sponsored by

Dying With Dignity Victoria
Dying With Dignity NSW
The Estate of Dr Clem Jones AO
The World Federation of Right To Die Societies

Tickets available at www.dwdv.org.au



Welcome

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, I am delighted to welcome you to the *Public Symposium Day* of the 2010 *World Federation of Right To Die Societies* biennial global conference in Melbourne, Australia.

As a biennial conference, it is the premiere event on the global Dying With Dignity calendar...and a rare occasion to hear from some of the world's experts in assisted dying for those suffering intolerably and without relief from serious end-of-life illness.

The conference's theme is *Dying With Dignity: Bridging Principles and Practice*. The Symposium will cover the principles of when and in what context assisted dying might be provided, how it is exercised in a number of jurisdictions around the world, and illustrated with case examples.

Symposium speakers are leaders in their fields not only from around the nation, but around the world. In particular we are delighted to welcome Professor Barbara Glidewell, recently retired director of *Patient Relations, Clinical Palliative Care* and *Clinical Pastoral Care* at the *Oregon Health and Sciences University* in Portland, Oregon. Professor Glidewell has provided oversight for the consultation process for roughly half the physician-assisted deaths under Oregon's Death With Dignity Act, which has been in effect since 1997.

We are also delighted to welcome Professor Jan Bernheim, an oncologist and researcher from *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, Belgium. Professor Bernheim will describe the Belgian assisted-dying law and discuss Belgium's experience with integration of assisted dying with palliative care.

The Organising Committee has created for you what we believe is a stimulating and rewarding program. Over the day of the symposium you will hear a range of views and opinions about many aspects of dying with dignity, both supportive of and opposed to assisted dying.

Views are sometimes held strongly on both sides of the debate. We ask that at all times your participation be considered and respectful, including questions from the floor.

It is now fourteen years since the *World Federation* conference was last held in Melbourne. Since then, law reform has been enacted in The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the USA states of Oregon and Washington. More and more jurisdictions will reform in the near future to permit assisted dying in exceptional circumstances.

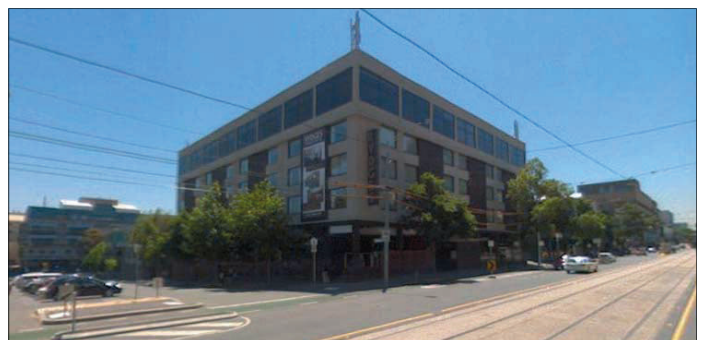
I do hope that you will take this opportunity to be involved in the discussion of assisted-dying issues, and that you will come away enriched by the experience. I look forward to welcoming you to the Symposium.



Neil Francis
DWDV President and CEO
Conference Chair

Rydges on Swanston is at 701 Swanston Street, Carlton; tram stop 3 at Lincoln Square 1Km north of the city. The Symposium will be held in the Carlton room on the top floor.

Tickets for the event can be purchased via the DWDV web site at www.dwdv.org.au.



Symposium Program

Friday 8th October 2010 — Carlton Room (top floor)

Program subject to change without notice

W/FRDS Public Symposium Day	08:15	<i>Registration for public-symposium-day-only attendees</i>
	09:00	Welcome, Conference Chair — Neil Francis, President and CEO, Dying With Dignity Victoria
	09:05	Opening Address — Candy Broad, Member for Northern Victoria, a member of the Victorian Government
	09:15	PANEL SESSION 1: THE LAW Chair: Bill O'Shea, Solicitor and former President, Law Institute of Victoria (5 min)
	09:20	Deficiencies of the current law — The Hon. Stephen Charles QC (24 min)
	09:44	Getting the law right on physician-assisted dying — Prof. Margaret Otlowski (24 min)
	10:08	Palliative care or medically-assisted death: intentions, morality and the law — Dr Charles Douglas (24 min)
	10:32	Questions from the floor (13 min)
	10:45	<i>Morning tea (catered)</i>
	11:15	PANEL SESSION 2: ETHICS, BELIEF AND FAITH Chair: Assoc. Prof. Helga Kuhse, Centre for Human Bioethics, Monash University (5 min)
	11:20	Personal autonomy and end-of-life decision-making — Dr Robert Young, Reader in Philosophy, La Trobe University (20 min)
	11:40	An opposing religious view — Father Bill Uren, Rector, Newman College, Melbourne (20 min)
	12:00	A supportive religious view — Rev. Dr Francis Macnab, Executive Minister, St Michaels on Collins, Melbourne (15 min)
	12:15	Supporting choice — Ian Wood, Co-founder, Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia (15 min)
	12:30	Questions from the floor (15 min)
	12:45	<i>Lunch (catered)</i>
	13:45	PANEL SESSION 3: THE OREGON EXPERIENCE Oregon's <i>Death With Dignity Act</i> has been in operation since 1997 (5 min) Chair: Ted Goodwin, Vice-President, World Federation of Right To Die Societies
	13:50	Principles and practice: the legal framework and practical principles — Prof. Barbara Glidewell, Center for Ethics in Healthcare, Portland, Oregon (30 min)
	14:20	Further views from Oregon — Neil Francis, President and CEO, Dying With Dignity Victoria (25 min)
	14:45	Case studies from Oregon — Prof. Barbara Glidewell (30 min)
	15:15	Questions from the floor (15 min)
	15:30	<i>Afternoon tea (catered)</i>
	16:00	PANEL SESSION 4: PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING (PAD) AND PALLIATIVE CARE Chair: Dr Rodney Syme, Vice-President, Dying With Dignity Victoria (5 min)
	16:05	Causing death: palliative care and euthanasia — Prof. Michael Ashby, Director of Palliative Care, Royal Hobart Hospital (20 min)
16:25	Integrating PAD and palliative care in Belgium — Prof. Jan Bernheim, Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Medicine, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Researcher, End-of-Life Care Research Group, Belgium (30 min)	
16:55	Practical and philosophical aspects of terminal sedation — Dr Roger Hunt, Director, Western Palliative Care Service, Adelaide (20 min)	
17:15	Questions from the floor (15 min)	
17:30	Closing Address — Neil Francis, Conference Chair (5 min)	

Chair and Speaker Profiles

Prof. Michael Ashby



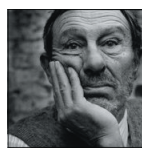
Michael Ashby is Director of Palliative Care at the *Royal Hobart Hospital* and Southern Tasmania Area Health Service. In 2009 he was appointed Clinical Leader of the state-wide *Palliative Care Clinical Network* that was set up as part of the Tasmanian Health Plan.

He holds a conjoint position as Professor of Palliative Care, Faculty of Health Sciences, *University of Tasmania*, and is currently Coordinator of Theme 4 (Personal and Professional Development) in the UTAS MBBS course, which includes responsibility for ethics and law teaching. He chairs the Clinical Ethics Committee at the *Royal Hobart Hospital*.

He graduated from *St Bartholomew's Hospital*, London University in 1978, and trained in medicine and radiation oncology in the UK, France and Australia. He has held clinical, academic and managerial positions since 1989 in Adelaide and Melbourne prior to moving to Hobart in 2007. Michael is Past President of the *Australia and New Zealand Society for Palliative Medicine* (ANZSPM) and a past Chairman of the Chapter of Palliative Medicine at the *Royal Australasian College of Physicians*.

His current research interests are in law, ethics and the humanities as they apply to care and decision-making at the end of life, grief and loss, and advance care planning.

Prof. Jan Bernheim

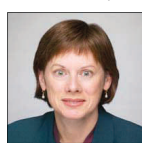


A medical oncologist, Jan Bernheim has successively worked at the universities of Gent, Amsterdam, Butare (Rwanda), UC San Diego and Brussels. His publications include over 100 international peer-reviewed articles, ranging from studies of cell death to quality of life and end-of-life issues.

In 1979 he co-founded the first *Palliative Care* organisation in continental Europe and the *European Study Group for Quality of Life*. His third-world activities have included the promotion of family planning in Rwanda (too little, too late) before the (predicted) 1994 genocide.

Recently retired, he is a researcher in end-of-life issues and quality of life in the *End-of-Life Care Research Group*, the Study Group *Evolution, Cognition and Complexity (ECCO)* and the *Centrum Leo Apostel* for interdisciplinary research of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* and the *Coma Science Research Group* of the *University of Liège*.

Candy Broad



Candy Broad is Member for the Region of Northern Victoria and a member of the Victorian Government. She has an inherent interest in improving the life of people from all backgrounds, especially those facing bigger hurdles than the rest.

Candy is former Minister of Energy, Resources and Ports, and former Minister for Local Government.

Hon. Stephen Charles QC



Stephen Charles practised as a barrister in Melbourne from 1961 to 1995. He became a QC in 1975 and later took silk in all Australian Bars and in New Zealand. He was chairman of the *Victorian Bar Council* from 1983 to 1985 and was president of the *Australian Bar*

Association in 1985 to 1986.

Stephen became a *Judge of Appeal* of the *Supreme Court of Victoria* in 1995, retiring in 2006. Since retiring from the bench, he has taught at both Melbourne and Monash Universities, for Monash University in Prato, teaching Comparative Criminal Law with Professor Michele Papa, Dean of the Law School of the University of Florence, and at Melbourne University teaching the Law of Royal Commissions.

Dr Charles Douglas



Charles Douglas is Senior Lecturer in *Clinical Ethics and Health Law* at the *University of Newcastle* in the Australian state of NSW. He is currently finalising his PhD on End-of-Life Decision-Making, based on a number of publications relating to the intentions of doctors, the withdrawal of medical treatment, and distinctions between euthanasia and palliative care.

Charles is also a surgeon specializing in breast cancer and melanoma. Prior to studying medicine he studied mathematics and theoretical physics. He is married with four children. In his spare time, he likes to go white water kayaking.

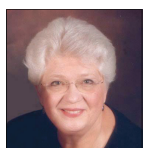
Neil Francis



Neil Francis is President and CEO of *Dying With Dignity Victoria*. Like many delegates he has experiences of loved ones having either a good or an awful death. This had lead him to be active in promoting community conversation around end-of-life, as well as law reform to provide a wider range of choices that are wanted by the overwhelming majority of the community. He works to engage public, private and professional dialogue with a wide range of constituencies, and is focused on evidence-based decision making supported by strong ethical principles.

Neil comes from a background of medical research, technology, business, education and communications. He is Chair of the *World Federation of Right To Die Societies* Global Biennial Conference 2010.

Prof. Barbara Glidewell



Barbara Glidewell, RN, MBS has 34 years experience at *Oregon Health Sciences University* Hospital (OHSU), a regional referral centre and university teaching hospital. As hospital ombudsman and patient advocate, she directed *Patient Relations*, *Clinical Palliative Care* and *Clinical Pastoral Care*. Now semi-retired, she continues as assistant professor of internal medicine and geriatrics, teaching medical-dental-nursing students, residents, fellows and faculty communication skills in patient-provider relations, debriefing, moral distress, surrogacy, and end of life discussions.

Formally trained in clinical ethics consultation, she provided bedside consults and chaired the hospital's ethics consultation service for 10 years. Currently, she directs the *OHSU Ethics Fellowship Program*, training the next generation of ethicists. When Oregon's *Death with Dignity* legislation became law in 1997, she was designated chief facilitator for OHSU patients wishing to access the law. Her work continues with physician aid-in-dying legislation as a public educator and provider coach.

Chair and Speaker Profiles

Ted Goodwin



Graduating in education, and advanced studies in school administration and law, Ted worked in various labour relations/human resource management capacities in the steel and chemicals industries. He established a successful consultancy over the next fifteen years in organizational planning, compensation and staffing, serving a wide variety of clients such as CitiBank, Siemens and IntelSat. In 1985, he established a company that provides a wide variety of mobile medical screening examinations to industrial, governmental, and law enforcement agencies throughout the USA.

He has served in a variety of volunteer capacities, such as *Jaycees*, *American Lung Association*, *Boy Scouts of America*, and *Guardian ad Litem* (court protection of abused and neglected children).

In recent years, Ted has dedicated his energies to advancing the Right to Die movement. He has served as Atlanta Chapter President of the *Hemlock Society* and National Board member and Treasurer of *End of Life Choices (Hemlock Society)*. In 2004, he founded *Final Exit Network*, serving as President until 2009. In 2006, he joined the Board of the *World Federation of Right to Die Societies*, where he has served as Treasurer and Vice President. In addition, he currently serves as a Board member of *ERGO*.

Dr Roger Hunt



Dr Roger Hunt is a pioneer in palliative care in Australia. He was a foundation member of *Daw House Hospice*, site of the world's first chair in palliative medicine; foundation Secretary of *Palliative Care Australia*, a foundation Fellow of the *Royal Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine*, and an Honorary Life Member of the *Palliative Care Council of South Australia*.

Roger has published numerous papers on clinical and ethical challenges in palliative medicine, and achieved a doctorate on the epidemiology of terminal care. He has established undergraduate and post graduate university topics in palliative care. He has been a member of the *Australian Medical Association (South Australia) Council* over 8 years.

Prof. Helga Kuhse



Associate Professor Helga Kuhse was appointed in 1981 as the University's (and Australia's) first research fellow in bioethics. She was Director of the *Centre for Human Bioethics* until June 1999. She is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of 15 books, including *Caring: Nurses, Women and Ethics*; *The Sanctity of Life Doctrine in Medicine: A Critique*; *Willing to Listen - Wanting to Die*; *A Companion to Bioethics*; *Bioethics: An Anthology* (1st and 2nd editions) and has published numerous articles in scholarly journals.

Rev. Dr Francis Macnab AO



Reverend Dr Francis Macnab is the Executive Director of *The Cairnmillar Institute* which he founded in 1961. The institute is a centre for psychotherapy, postgraduate professional training, and community psychology. He trained in psychoanalysis and group psychotherapy, and has

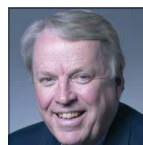
Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne, Australia

written some 28 books. Francis is also the Founder of the *SAGE Group of Psychology*, which has now operated for 25 years, for people between the ages of 45 and 105 years of age. He has been Executive Minister of St Michael's Uniting Church, Melbourne, since 1971.

He is a former President of *The International Council of Psychologists*, and a Fellow of *The British Psychological Society*, *The Australian Psychological Society*, *The Australian College of Education*, and *The Australian Institute of Company Directors*.

A member of The Order of Australia, Francis was awarded the *Sir James Darling Medal* in March, 1995, for outstanding contributions to education.

Bill O'Shea



Bill O'Shea was appointed as *Alfred Health's* first Legal Counsel in October 2003. He has an honours degree in law, a Bachelor of Science with a major in mathematics and a Diploma of Education, all from the *University of Melbourne*.

Prior to joining *Alfred Health* he was managing partner and head of the commercial law practice group at national law firm *Hunt & Hunt*. He is a past President of the *Law Institute of Victoria* and a past member of the *Council of the Law Institute of Victoria*.

Bill has been involved in a half hour weekly legal talk back segment taking listeners calls on ABC Radio, covering all of regional Victoria, for the past 7 years. He is a regular guest on Lindy Burns' 774 ABC Drive program discussing current legal issues in a half hour segment every Wednesday.

He is also the Chair of *College of Law Victoria Pty Ltd*, which provides on-line professional legal training to law graduates prior to their admission to practise. Bill is also a Board member of *Nucleus Network Limited*, the clinical trials and consulting subsidiary of the *Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute*.

Prof. Margaret Otlowski

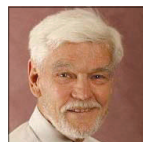


Professor Margaret Otlowski is Dean of the Law Faculty at the *University of Tasmania*. She has longstanding experience in health law and bioethics, publishing extensively in the field, and has been engaged by

Commonwealth and State governments and agencies as consultant and member for various committees, working parties and Tribunals, including current membership with the *Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Tribunal*.

Her PhD research focused on legalization of active voluntary euthanasia and was published by Oxford University Press: *Voluntary Euthanasia and the Common Law* (1997). Since then, she has continued her medico-legal research including issues of regulation, privacy, discrimination and law reform.

Dr Rodney Syme



Dr Rodney Syme first assisted one of his patients to die in 1976, and continues to do so today. He has challenged the authorities to prosecute him. He has written of his experiences with dying patients in his book, *A Good Death*. He has been a member of DWDV for 18 years — 11 as President — and is a Board member of WFRTDS.

Chair and Speaker Profiles

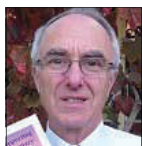
Fr Bill Uren SJ



Father Bill Uren is a Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Jesuit Order. He is Rector of *Newman College*, a residential college affiliated to the University of Melbourne. A graduate of the Universities of Melbourne, Sydney and Oxford, he has lectured in moral philosophy and bioethics at *Murdoch University* in Western Australia, at the *University of Melbourne* and the *University of Queensland*.

Bill has served on over twenty clinical and human research ethics committees and boards in hospitals, research institutes and universities and has worked as a clinical ethicist in a major public hospital. From 2001 to 2006 he was a member of the *Australian Health Ethics Committee*.

Ian Wood



Ian Wood spent all his working life as a community pharmacist in Port Pirie, South Australia, after graduating from *Adelaide University* in 1962.

He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the *National Trust of South Australia* after 40 terms as honorary secretary/ treasurer of the Port Pirie Branch, and is

a Life Member of *Port Pirie Music Club*.

Ian has been actively lobbying South Australian MPs for social justice with legal Voluntary Euthanasia since 2004, after the death of his mother.

In February 2009, together with Reverend Trevor Bensch, he founded the group *Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia*. Their website is at www.christiansforve.org.au. Ian has given countless presentations about faith and assisted dying around the country, and published a booklet on the subject.

Dr Robert Young



Robert Young has taught philosophy in universities in Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. for more than three decades prior to his retirement. His publications include: *Freedom, Responsibility and God*; *Personal Autonomy: Beyond Negative and Positive Freedom*; and *Medically Assisted Death*.

He was elected to a Fellowship of the *Academy of Humanities of Australia* in 1992. He worked as an economist before commencing his philosophical career.

Notes