## Lawyers for Death with Dignity

Spokesperson: Stephen Kenny

Stephen Kenny is the nominated spokesperson for *Lawyers for Death with Dignity*. This group is made up of supportive legal practitioners in South Australia.

Lawyers for Death with Dignity acknowledges the right of terminally and incurably ill people with profound suffering to choose to end their life with a medically assisted and dignified death. The current law stands that suicide is not illegal, but assisting suicide is. In many cases, those who are in terminal states have profound, unbearable suffering and are put in the undignified position of being unable to end their life without assistance. Options for people in these positions are limited.

Many jurisdictions provide for this choice through differing legislative arrangements, including Washington, Oregon, Montana, Vermont, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland where laws are operating safely and responsibly. The medical profession has advanced their discipline to improve life expectancy, but appropriate changes have not been reflected in the South Australian law to deal with an often forgotten deterioration of quality of life this may bring.

Lawyers for Death with Dignity support voluntary euthanasia bills presented to the South Australian Parliament, allowing individuals to seek assistance to end their life with dignity.

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with Lawyers for Death with Dignity as the subject heading.