A state newsletter of

FamilyVoice AUSTRALIA

VoxLink

New South Wales

March 2017

Voluntary euthanasia legislation proposed

NSW is set to debate whether to allow terminally ill adults to legally end their lives, with a voluntary assisted dying bill expected to come before Parliament this year.

A cross party working group, which includes MPs from the Nationals, Greens, Labor and Liberal, is reportedly finalising draft legislation which it intends to release for public consultation shortly. The group then hopes to introduce its bill into the NSW Upper House for consideration in the second half of 2017. MPs from all major parties will be allowed to vote based on their conscience.

FamilyVoice NSW/ACT director Aaron Wright is concerned that the full facts surrounding the matter have not been carefully examined and says that one primary motive behind legalised voluntary euthanasia is that of financial gain through ridding society of those the medical establishment deems as 'burdens' unfit to continue living.

According to a new analytical report published by the Canadian Medical Association Journal, doctor-assisted suicide could save Canada tens of millions of dollars annually by avoiding costly "end-of-life" care. It is estimated that the savings could be as high as $139 million.

A Dutch woman chose to be euthanised "after doctors decided her post-traumatic stress and other conditions were incurable." Under Dutch euthanasia laws, a physician can end a patient's life with a lethal injection for mental suffering. Her life was ended last year.

In a 2015 Belgian study, researchers examined the cases of 100 psychiatric patients who requested euthanasia for their suffering. They found that the most common reasons to request euthanasia were depression and personality disorders. Testing found that 38% had autism spectrum disorders. "In total, 48 of the euthanasia requests were accepted and 35 were carried



out." Eight cancelled their procedure (knowing it was available provided peace of mind). An additional 8 people died through suicide, palliative sedation and anorexia nervosa.

A more recent article looked at the Netherlands and found 66 cases of patients received euthanasia for psychiatric illness

"We must protect life - the beginning and the end of life. In both cases this is a slippery slope," said Mr Wright.

List of 'Safe Schools' stays hidden

FamilyVoice NSW/ACT director Aaron Wright has welcomed some good news that has come from the whole Safe Schools fiasco.

The previous NSW education minister Adrian Piccoli assured the public last year that no NSW primary schools were running the Safe Schools programs, that parents can 'opt out' their kids from any classes using Safe Schools materials, that schools must consult parents before using Safe Schools in class, and that in recent days 'fluid gender' theory has been banned in NSW schools.

However, Mr Wright says there's a "secret list of NSW schools running the 'Safe Schools' program" which he finds a "little puzzling."

Fred Nile MP (CDP NSW) directed a question without notice on Safe Schools to NSW Assistant Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell, who said, "At 9 September (2016), 21 of the 120 registered schools" use Safe Schools resources "in class in small groups or individually".

"The resources are not being used in any New South Wales public primary school classrooms. Primary schools can only access Safe Schools program support, resources and training if required for individualised support and one-on-one counselling," Sarah Mitchell said.

Aaron Wright is still concerned.

"The Victorian Safe Schools Coalition has no problem listing participating schools, so what are we [NSW] and QLD trying to hide?" Mr Wright said.

"Don't we have a right to know where this program is running? Are they expecting that we will turn up with pitchforks and flaming torches (which, of course, we won't)? The parents and the public have a right to know," he said.

"Better yet scrap it and replace it with less controversial anti-bullying programs created by people who are experts in this field."

Mr Wright suggests replacements including Friendly Schools Plus (Macquarie University Centre for Emotional Health), Bullyed (Aus. Institute of Professional Counsellors), Bully Busters, or Choose Respect.

'Neutral' ADF join NSW Mardi Gras

The Australian Defence Force supplied its troops with rainbow coloured 'Army Pride' lapel pins and encouraged them to march in uniform at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on March 4.

"According to Army regulations, the 'Rising Sun' badge is not to be 'redrawn, recoloured, renamed, modified, cropped, rotated, manipulated or altered in any way… or used as part of a new logo,'" said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders.

"ADF personnel marching in uniform at this event contravenes the military's long standing tradition of being politically neutral, and it insults those who fought, bled and died for the freedom that we enjoy in this country. The Rising Sun badge represents sacrifice, not politics.

"If someone asked to place a Christian symbol on the lapel pin, the ADF would have refused, no doubt," Mr Saunders pointedly concluded.

Push to decriminalise abortion

NSW Greens MLC Mehreen Faruqi has introduced a private member's bill in the Legislative Council called the Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts Amendment) Bill 2016.

"In summary the bill, if it is passed, will remove abortion from the NSW Crimes Act 1900, create so-called safe access zones around abortion clinics and restrict the conscientious objection rights of doctors," said FamilyVoice NSW/ACT State Director Aaron Wright

Debate was adjourned after Faruqi gave her Second Reading speech and it is expected that debate on the bill will resume sometime in February or March.

"As it has been introduced as a Private Members' bill, debate on it is restricted to Thursdays when the Parliament is sitting. As there is always much competition about what is dealt with on Thursdays, it is expected that debate on this bill will continue well into 2017," Mr Wright added.

"There are still up to 40 MLCs who are entitled to, but have not spoken on the bill. The Legislative Council returns this week after the summer recess. It will be just a case of waiting and seeing."

Marriage celebratory event

FamilyVoice's Aaron Wright invited to marriage celebratory event.



An international event to honour and celebrate marriage hosted by The Sydney Chinese Christian Churches Association and the Australia International Marriage & Family Association was held at the newly-opened International Convention Centre in Sydney's Darling Harbour on 11 February.

During the afternoon, 70 couples either entered into the covenant of marriage or renewed their vows.

Dr Zhao Xiao, President of the International Association of Marriage and Family, said: "The reason we have all come here from China for this festival, is because marriage and family is in crisis. "

FamilyVoice NSW/ACT State Director Aaron Wright was invited to attend as a guest of honour.

"What a wonderful experience it was to partner with our Chinese brothers and sisters to celebrate and honour marriage. The brand new International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour was the perfect venue for this massive wedding and vow renewal ceremony. With a capacity crowd on the day, including many who travelled from China for the event, it is clear that we are not alone in our concerns and our efforts to save biblical marriage as defined by our Creator God. The event was a bold and moving endorsement of marriage between a one man and one woman," he said.

Concern over social services bill

The Australian Senate is considering a government bill which would unfairly favour two-income families over those on a single income.



The Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017 ends Family Tax Benefit end-of-year financial supplements for all parents from 2019 to fund subsidy increases for the day-care industry and two more weeks of paid parental leave.

End-of-year FTB supplements were created to ensure families would not finish the financial year in debt to the government. If familes under-estimate their projected income, or fail to register a new job, more hours, or pay increases, they can be in for a shock at the end of the year when the Social Services balances all payments.

Most families receiving FTB stand to lose $1,500 to $2,000 every year.

For two income families, who already enjoy two tax free thresholds and generous Child Care Rebates (CCR), the government wants to increase the rate and scope of CCR and remove the cap of $7,500 per child.

This is blatant discrimination against work at home mothers.

Babies left to die horrifies many

A popular FamilyVoice social media alert on babies surviving abortions and being left to die shows the Australian public is horrified that 27 babies were killed in 2015.

A FamilyVoice Facebook update on February 23 with world-wide examples of how these babies die was re-shared 554 times by concerned citizens.

The post explained that 26 such babies in WA were left to die from 1999 to 2014 It is estimated that between 8000-10,000 babies are aborted in WA every year.

In Queensland there are approximately 10,000 to 14,000 abortions per year. In 2015, 27 of those babies were born alive and left to die after botched late term abortions. This was revealed in 2016 by Minister for Health, Cameron Dick, in response to a question on notice from Cleveland MP Mark Robinson.

It is commonly estimated that one percent of all abortions are late term, which means between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 late term abortions in Queensland result in a baby born alive.

"The practice of allowing a baby to survive an abortion and leave it to die alone and in excruciating pain is both tragic and unacceptable," said FamilyVoice Queensland Director Ricky Ohl.

"Please tell your local MP of your desire to see a parliamentary investigation in Queensland on this issue."

A recent WA leaders debate revealed neither major party leader would support such an inquiry. WA Liberal party leader Colin Barnett rejected it on the basis that it would be "divisive".

Follow FamilyVoice on Facebook at FB.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia

PUBLISHER:

FamilyVoice Australia
GPO Box 9894, Sydney NSW 2001
phone: 1300 365 965 fax: 08 8223 5850
email: office@fava.org.au www.fava.org.au

PUBLISHED:

March, June, September, December

EDITOR:

Rev Ashley Saunders

PRINTER:

Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042

EXTRACTS:

Articles or extracts from VoxLink may be used for other publications, provided that the reprint includes the following notice:
"Reprinted from VoxLink by permission of FamilyVoice Australia, www.fava.org.au."

Editorial

Conservative revolution or tipping point?

The national political landscape was upset this year after South Australian Senator Cory Bernardi's resignation from the Liberal party on February 9, the culmination of years of deep disquietude with the direction of the federal Liberal party.

Bernardi expressed his disenchantment with the Liberals back in a November 2016 blog post in which he said: "It is not and has never been the Liberal Party's job to pursue the 'regressive' Left agenda. … Political parties, if they are to survive, need to have a strong base of principled conviction that shapes and frames policy development. They don't drift along wondering where the tide of public opinion will take them. Instead, they take up the oars with intent and try to convince others to join them on the journey."

The Australian Conseratives party is not innately Christian, but many of its principles show a deep respect for Christian values.

Bernardi wrote in his 2013 book *The Conservative Revolution*: "The framework of our Western moral tradition can be found in the wisdom of the Ten Commandments and in the lessons of Christ and the life of the Apostles. Thus, secular or not, our society is based on the principles of religious faith, borne of the natural law that is engraved on our very heart, reflected in our customs and codified in our laws."

Bernardi is a strong supporter of traditional man-woman marriage. During a September 2012 debate with Labor Senator Penny Wong, he described the push for same-sex "marriage" as coming from "radicals" who were determined to destroy the social fabric of Australian society. He questioned where the militant campaign would lead, if society was prepared to redefine marriage based on the "latest criterion" that it should be allowed irrespective of gender.

Cory Bernardi has been a very vocal and unwavering opponent of the so-called "Safe Schools" gender ideology program. His outspoken stance on the issue ultimately lead to his office being invaded, trashed and defaced by an angry group of less-than-tolerant pro-LGBT students.

In *The Conservative Revolution*, Bernardi raises concerns about non-traditional families, surrogacy, abortion and euthanasia and calls on fellow conservatives to help to reverse the trends in social acceptance of changing attitudes that has helped usher us into a "morbid new world" by using sanity and reason. He wrote that it is "horrendous and unacceptable" that the abortion "death industry despatches 80,000 to 100,000 unborn children [in Australia] every year." He also believes that life begins at conception.

Being the arch enemy of the Australian Greens and what he calls their "regressive leftist agenda," he decries environmentalism campaigns and so-called renewable energy. He says the burqa is a "shroud of oppression" and should be banned. He also denies humans are the primary cause of climate change. He also wants to strike 'insult' and 'offend' out of Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.

On the party website, Australian Conservatives' principles include limited government, personal responsibility, free enterprise and civil society - all hallmark facets of the centre right.

Following Bernardi's resignation, former Prime Minister Tony Abbot took the opportunity at the end of last month to launch a blistering attack on current Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He outlined a five-point plan to recover the Liberal government's conservative credentials through such moves as cutting immigration, ending the renewable energy target, cutting taxes, cutting spending, and scrapping the Human Rights Commission.

Like Bernardi, Abbott wants to steer the Liberal ship towards conservative values. Whatever is in their future, they both see it as their conscientious duty to put Christian-derived conservative values back on the national agenda, and that will be good for all Australians.

Letters

Abortion sorrow

Hearing that babies are being left to die after late term abortions totally sickens me to the pit of my stomach. Babies suffer pain, unbelievably so.

Many do not believe that fetus' are not viable or feel no pain. I have experienced an abortion many years ago, advised by various medical reasons and I hated it!

It *does* have an emotional impact on a woman. Especially Christian women because they know that God knows each and every one of us before we are conceived and born. People may scoff, but I truly believe that. Read Psalm 139.

Anne Reeves
(Location withheld)

God said: "Before you were formed in your Mother's womb I knew you." No excuse to let these little souls die when so many would love to adopt them and give them the chance they deserve.

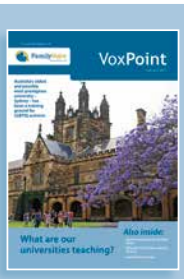
Joe Grogan
Melbourne, VIC

A national tragedy and murder whichever way you look at it. It's appalling that doctors and nurses are complicit in the destruction of these babies. One section of the profession works around the clock trying to save babies born prematurely - as early as 25 weeks - whilst other medically qualified butchers make fortunes destroying these tiny people. No government should be considering legalising the murder of the unborn at any stage of development.

(Name withheld)
Northmead, NSW

Where are you my mother, my protector, my nourishment
If I could speak I would beg that you rescue me
Hear my cry as I slowly die
Your empty arms are my broken heart
But as you turn away
Others unite to pray

Judi Walker
Wangaratta, VIC



- What are our universities teaching?
- Why did Christians vote for Trump?
- Euthanasia warning

+FavaOrgAu /familyvoiceaustralia

I would like to subscribe to *FamilyVoice* publications ($64 per year). Please find enclosed cheque or debit my credit card:

Mastercard Visa

Expiry /

Cardholder:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

P/code:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to: **FamilyVoice Australia**
GPO Box 9894, Sydney NSW 2001

Free speech advocate wins court battle

Bernard Gaynor slams anti-discrimination board as "political thought police"

Free speech campaigner Bernard Gaynor, a Catholic father of seven from Queensland and former military man, received a favourable judgment on February 3 in his battle with the New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Board and the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

"I've fought this case very hard for three years now and I think this case sets a huge precedent," Mr Gaynor told *VoxLink*.

> **"This case sets a huge precedent"**

Until the favourable ruling, Gaynor faced the prospect of appearing before what he called a "kangaroo court" and being ordered to issue a formal apology and pay fines up to $1.6 million to "anti-free speech" activist Garry Burns. Failure to do so could be considered contempt and opened the possibility of Gaynor's imprisonment.

One of the 32 complaints raised by Mr Burns related to his objection to Bernard Gaynor's blog about naked gay men exposing themselves to children at the Toronto Pride Parade in Canada. Another complaint arose from Gaynor's critique of remarks made by an Australian judge concerning incest in the context of the cultural embrace of homosexual behaviour. According to Gaynor, the ruling ends "the tyranny of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and its serial complainants" and prevents them holding persons to account for action that occurred outside NSW.

"But, I am disappointed that the arguments on political communication and religious freedom weren't considered. The judges only ruled on jurisdiction and those battles will come another day," he said.

The key takeaway, Gaynor said, is "the Anti-Discrimination Board themselves are operating entirely outside the law. They are unconstitutional.

"They are nothing more than political thought police."

Gaynor is not confident that a formal inquiry will be conducted. But he has told his legal team to begin legal action against the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, which he believes will be successful.

"The Acting President of the New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Board has admitted in writing that her organization has breached its own statutory obligations under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW). The Board failed to provide me with information in relation to its 'investigations' into me," Gaynor said.



Bernard Gaynor is relieved over thirty complaints were dismissed

He also hopes the NSW Police will take appropriate action against Burns for his decision to contact Islamic organizations and offer them Gaynor's personal details, including his family's home address. The subsequent caused Gaynor family members "great stress" and as a result they were forced to seek residence elsewhere for their own safety. So far, the police have declined to take any action on the basis that Gaynor was subject to anti-discrimination complaints.

Marriage inquiry fails to rule on religious freedom

Religious freedom must apply to all citizens, FamilyVoice told the Senate Committee overseeing the draft Marriage Amendment Bill

The February final report from the Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill did not affirm the right of conscientious objection for all citizens, and did not uphold freedom of religious practise for businesses and government workers.

The Committee members agreed that "under current human rights instruments and jurisprudence, there have been no decisions that oblige Australia to legislate for same-sex marriage. That said, there has been no suggestion that there are any legal impediments to doing so."

The Committee did not reach agreement on whether exemptions due to the religious freedoms of business owners and employees should be accommodated for in same-sex marriage legislation.



However, their final report cited the Institute for Civil Society's argument that aspirational religious duties are to be admired: "Persons with a strong religious or conscientious duty will act contrary to their self-interest, economic and physical security and pleasure to fulfil the duty."

Addressing the Committee on 25 January, FamilyVoice former National Director Dr David Phillips said, "Current provisions in the Marriage Act 47(a) affirm that a minister of religion can refuse to solemnise any marriage they want to. No discrimination and no need to try to justify their reasons. However, a civil celebrant does not have that freedom. The proposals in the draft give special treatment for homosexuals (surprise, surprise).

"47(a) currently doesn't mention race, people under or over a certain height, those with tattoos, Christian ministers refusing to marry Muslims or Buddhist and vice versa, etc.

"Redefining marriage has nothing to do with equality and everything to do with forced conformance," he said.

Dr Phillips referred to conscientious objection in times of war as enshrined in the Defence Act, and further argued, "The bill only protects ordained Christian ministers, which is a very narrow exception. The exception, if it is to be there at all, needs to apply to every Australian citizen in every area of belief, every area of practice, every area of association and every area of family formation."

The final report ended by quoting Professor Nicholas Aroney and Dr Joel Harrison: "Religious freedom has often been treated as a second-class right, while antidiscrimination laws have been given priority… Great care needs to be taken to ensure that a focus on the first-mentioned right (freedom from discrimination) does not diminish the others (e.g. freedom of religion, association and cultural expression and practice)."