



OFFICE OF STUART GRIMLEY MP
Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2019

Grimley's Support for Terminally Ill to Die with Dignity

Stuart Grimley MP has expressed his support of terminally ill Victorians to *Die with Dignity* which will officially become reality in Victoria in June.

Under the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017*, any person over the age of 18 of a sound mind, who has a prognosis of life of less than 6 months due to a disease, illness or medical condition and who can demonstrate unbearable pain will be able to access prescribed substances from a dispensing pharmacist (the only one in the state to administer the drug will be Melbourne's The Alfred Hospital) from June 19.

Mr Grimley believes the legislation has appropriate safeguards and many steps to ensure those seeking to end their lives are certain of their decision.

Despite Mr Grimley not being an MP at the time of the marathon 28-hour Parliamentary Sitting which decided the fate of the Bill, it is a campaign Senator Hinch and the Derryn Hinch Justice Party supported many years prior.

In 2016, Mr Grimley ran as Senator Hinch's running mate in the Federal Election where it became apparent that there was an overwhelming support for the legislation.

Party namesake Hinch openly stated in 2019 that if he were to again be diagnosed with liver cancer (of which he overcame in 2011 following a life-saving transplant) or another fateful illness, that he would exercise his "civil right" and die with dignity.

A Vote Compass survey undertaken in April-May 2019 of over 450,000 Australians showed that 87% of people agreed with the right to voluntary euthanasia with a further 6% 'neutral' on the idea of dying with dignity.

Mr Grimley Stated:

"Why would we force sick people to live in pain and suffering when they simply want to rest in peace?"

I'm looking forward to allowing families to be with their loved ones as they choose to rest easy, by choice.

We've seen people travel all the way to Sweden just to have access to avoid a painful death. In 2019, we shouldn't be accepting that 'that's life'.

I will be paying close attention to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board's* six monthly reports over the next two years and the 12-monthly reports thereafter to advocate for any improvements we see necessary."

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