



# Nitschke condemns 'No' MPs

NATASHA BODDY

Terminally ill West Australians have no chance of dying peacefully and without pain because the State's politicians are living in the dark ages, voluntary euthanasia advocate Philip Nitschke says.

Dr Nitschke expressed his disappointment yesterday after a bid to legalise voluntary euthanasia for the terminally ill was defeated in the Legislative Council on Wednesday night.

After two days of debate on Greens MLC Robin Chapple's Voluntary Euthanasia Bill, a conscience vote by Upper House MPs saw the plan defeated 24 votes to 11.

Dr Nitschke said it had contained detailed safeguards and would have reflected people's needs. "You're now sinking back into the dark ages," he said.

"Legal" euthanasia did take place in cases where doctors administered too much morphine to patients, but he said this was a poor substitute for decent legislation which would allow people to "be open with their families and have a peaceful death when they choose".

Family Voice Australia's national policy officer

Richard Egan said the Bill would have turned doctors into killers and was concerned it would have been allowed people other than the terminally ill to apply.

Mr Chapple said yesterday it was a "sad day" for him and he thought more MPs would have supported the Bill but he pledged that if re-elected, he would again seek to legalise voluntary euthanasia.

"For the first time in WA, we've debated the issue and undoubtedly, it won't be the last," he said.

Mr Chapple said the debate in the Legislative Council revealed it was a complex issue for many MPs.

"That's when a debate comes back to core beliefs and core values," he said. "I think that good debate is about when people actually put their hearts on the line."

Mr Chapple said debate had highlighted the need for a stronger focus on palliative care.

"Everybody furiously agrees with the idea that there isn't enough palliative care, it's not being funded well by the Government," he said.

## HOW THE UPPER HOUSE VOTED

### YES (11 Votes)

Robin Chapple **Greens**  
 Lynn MacLaren **Greens**  
 Alison Xamon **Greens**  
 Giz Watson **Greens**  
 Ken Travers **Labor**

Adele Farina **Labor**  
 Jon Ford **Labor**  
 Linda Savage **Labor**  
 Sue Ellery **Labor**  
 Sally Talbot **Labor**  
 Phil Gardiner **Nationals**

### NO (24 Votes)

Ken Baston **Liberal**  
 Liz Behjat **Liberal**  
 Jim Chown **Liberal**  
 Peter Collier **Liberal**  
 Phil Edman **Liberal**  
 Brian Ellis **Liberal**  
 Donna Fargaher **Liberal**  
 Nick Goiran **Liberal**  
 Nigel Hallett **Liberal**  
 Alyssa Hayden **Liberal**  
 Robyn McSweeney **Liberal**  
 Matt Benson-Lidholm **Labor**

Simon O'Brien **Liberal**  
 Wendy Duncan **Nationals**  
 Mia Davies **Nationals**  
 Colin Holt **Nationals**  
 Max Trenorden **Nationals**  
 Helen Bullock **Labor**  
 Ed Dermer **Labor**  
 Adele Farina **Labor**  
 Ljiljanna Ravlich **Labor**  
 Norman Moore **Liberal**  
 Helen Morton **Liberal**  
 Michael Mischin **Liberal**