



MEDIA RELEASE

19 October 2011

Contact Dr Lachlan Dunjey 0407 937 513 lachlan@medicinewithmorality.org.au

Key's bill with Gardner Amendments

Over two hundred doctors and professionals belonging to *Medicine with Morality* have written to MPs in South Australia explaining why the amended bill is unworkable in medical practice.

Dr Dunjey explained "The original bill that supposedly had nothing to do with euthanasia has now been amended to include safeguards against indiscriminate euthanasia but the amendments will make palliative care of the dying fraught with difficulty.

"At least now the bill is more transparently about euthanasia and should be thrown out on these grounds alone. But in our care of the dying patient we will need specialist confirmation that we are using appropriate doses of sedative or pain relieving medication. To not do this would be to leave open the possibility of charges.

"The provision of compassionate medical care to the end of a patient's life is one of medicine's great privileges. It requires skill and time. To have to arrange a specialist consultation when increasing medication dose just to protect ourselves would be an unnecessary interference with that care and not one that would be understood or appreciated by the patient. It would sometimes simply not be possible.

"The amendments have made this bad bill into an impossible bill."

END.