

WAVES News

Media Watch – Week ending 10/7/2016

4 July

- ABC RN: [No palliative reform: No death with dignity](#). Dr Rodney Syme hopes that changes to the laws in Victoria may also improve the palliative care regime. Why is it that under current practice, some terminally ill people must endure unimaginable pain for days and sometimes weeks, before they die.
- NT News: "On this day IN THE TERRITORY 20 YEARS AGO: Chief Minister Shane Stone yesterday defended his Government from an attack over euthanasia laws by the Pope. Mr Stone said the law was the will of a properly-elected parliament and the government had a responsibility to see it come into effect." (Thanks to Judy Dent for this alert.)

5 July

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6 July

- The Australian: [US researchers find euthanasia is rare even when legal](#). By John Ross. Several of the world's foremost researchers in medical end-of-life matters have released a detailed and comprehensive review of the practice of assisted dying in lawful jurisdictions around the world. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, it does not support slippery slope hypotheses. If you can't access The Australian, there is an excellent [summary of the report](#) on the Dying for Choice website.
- SMH: [Why does it take the dying to remind us how to live well?](#) Leah Kaminsky (physician & author) reacting to the plea of Cory Taylor, terminal cancer sufferer and an advocate for open and honest discussion about all aspects of death. Before Taylor's death, in a public forum, Kaminsky said: "as a physician I am the one who has to go home to sleep that night, after helping to kill you'. Then she reports: "Taylor's feisty voice boomed down at me, did a lap of the room and entered the audience's heart. 'Killing me?! You are helping me fulfil a choice that is my absolute right.' It blew open the topic to which I still have no answers".
- ABC RN Conversations: [Dying for beginners: Cory Taylor on facing death with honesty](#) talks with Richard Fidler just before her death. Broadcast June 30. This is a summary. You can listen to the full interview [here](#).

7 July

- The Age: [More Victorians to be able to die at home under government plan](#) to overhaul the state's strained and fragmented palliative care system within two years.
- Ballarat Courier: [New framework for dying with dignity](#). The Vic. state government will provide \$7.2 million to put in place the right infrastructure to allow more Victorians with a terminal illness to die at home, in line with their wishes.

8 July

- SMH: Obituary: [Cory Taylor, Miles Franklin-nominated novelist whose last work was Dying: A Memoir](#)
- Herald Sun: [New books celebrate life while contemplating death](#). Extensive piece about Cory Taylor and her book "Dying" as well as the book/movie "Me Before You"

- Border Mail: [End of life is an 'essential' conversation](#). Talking with her husband about his death was one of the hardest things Beechworth woman Lorna Nash has done, but it was an essential conversation that provided clarity.

9 July

- SMH & The Age: [YourVote survey sends strong message on what voters care about](#). By Catherine Armitage. "Analysis of more than 270,000 responses on 30 issues (of Fairfax Media's YourVote survey) confirms a disconnect between voters and the main political parties There was strong consensus among voters on issues perceived as divisive such as euthanasia.... voters' opinions aligned with neither of the major parties...the 80 per cent agreement with the statement that terminally ill people should be able to end their own lives with medical assistance suggests the euthanasia issue may have lost its former presumed political toxicity. It may have shifted from the "too hard" political territory reserved for conscience issues to become a reasonable prospect for legislative attention."

Also of Interest:

- On [Q&A on Monday night](#) three of the panel of five are moderate to very strong VAD supporters - Derryn Hinch, Steve Price and Tanya Plibersek. Unfortunately however, given the topic "The pursuit of "jobs and growth" it would seem to preclude any extension into a question on VAD.

- The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services has [released a position paper](#) for their proposed act to simplify legislation regarding medical treatment decision making. Until July 29, they are seeking feedback from the public to get their views on the best ways to plan for and implement the proposed Act. Responses can be emailed to: acp.responses@dhhs.vic.gov.au. (Thanks to Tyrell Mills DWDvic for this alert.)

- Foxtel is showing Last Cab to Darwin, the movie made in 2015 starring Michael Caton and Jacki Weaver. Dates are July 17, 18, 25 and 27 Foxtel Movies Premier Channel (Channel 401 and 2 hours later on 411) Thanks to iolanda DWDnsw for this alert