

THE OFFICAL JOURNAL OF RIGHT TO LIFE NSW

SUMMER 2020

**ALL LIFE**

*Matters*



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# From the President

2019-2020 has been a holding pattern year due to Covid-19. Covid-19 has ushered in quite dramatic changes to peoples lives viz the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and families in the groups we need to isolate with the most.

Right to Life NSW will identify ways and means we can optimize our assistance and facilitate our core mission to people. Covid-19 regulations invariably result in people isolating and distancing from each other. This can have profound effect, on our work to reach out and assist – mentally and psychologically – to people struggling with decisions which, without being melodramatic, can be life/death decisions.

We will act responsibly but we cannot allow Covid-19 or any similar phenomena from preventing us from responding to a need.

This year has been one I consider following the shameful decriminalisation of abortion legislation and we are preparing for the fight of one's life to prevent the pestilence of euthanasia from infecting our state. We are embracing opinions and support for the possible establishment of a national Right to Life organization. Steady as it goes.

Two outstanding and deeply committed women have left our ranks. Dr Rachel Carling has served the organisation with enormous passion and drive. Her contribution to our ability to thwart the more barbaric aspect of the decriminalisation legislation made her a heroin to Right to Life organisations around the world. Dr Rachel has moved to a not-for-profit organisation which does amazing work and her skills and generosity will benefit so many deserving people. Janet Coombs has been with Right to Life NSW probably since it's inception. She may be chronologically aging but her pro-life heart and spirit is as young and generous and as loyal as ever. She has been a stalwart to Right to Life NSW. Her unyielding commitment to the preservation and protection of life has left us in awe of her. We embrace her, we love her and give her our best wishes.

To John Macaulay – our sincerest thanks. He always provides wise and considerate counsel with a happy knack of identifying individuals who have an innate vocation to protect life. To Kevin McCarthy – our numbers man, gives of himself enormously to balance the books with our quiet but deeply respected and loved David Evans. His insight and experience has allowed Right to Life NSW to advance so much. To our office staff, Dominica, Debbie, Kathryn & David – the human face of Right to Life NSW. Nothing can be advanced without you. Our thanks is limitless. To all our members – 'Supporters of Life' – we are sincerely grateful for your support and encouragement.

We welcome Dr Rachel Carling, Nicole El-Turk, Catherine Phillips, Elizabeth Phillips, David Tighe and Sophie York to Council. Lots of blessings and grace.

Thank you once again and we hope 2020/2021 brings blessings to our 'Defence of Life' with love and compassion.

*Dr Simon McCaffrey*



# Euthanasia Updates

## LIVE AND DIE WELL: TASMANIAN CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Tasmanian Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia Bill passed by the Legislative Council

The Tasmanian Legislative Council has passed the End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020. It has proceeded to the House of Assembly for further consideration. On August 27, independent MLC Mike Gaffney introduced the private member's Bill into the Legislative Council. As the Bill progressed, its more radical clauses were amended to bring it more in line with Victoria's laws. The amended bill now requires that a person must be expected to die within 6 months or 12 months if they have a neurodegenerative condition. Furthermore, the amended bill also prevents a health care professional from initiating a conversation with a patient about assisted suicide or euthanasia. Thankfully a planned review into opening access to euthanasia or assisted suicide for children was also removed. The amended Bill is still more expansive than the Victorian law in that it does not require the input of any specialists, it has reduced the cooling-off period from 9 to 4 days and it also includes the possibility that a nurse would be able to administer euthanasia or attend a person's house while they consume the lethal overdose.

Live and Die Well was launched in July 2020 to oppose this Bill. It led the pro-life campaign that has attempted to highlight the inherent risks in the Bill on the right to life of vulnerable people at risk of elder abuse. This message has been largely marginalized by the local media and a popular campaign led by Your Choice Tas that has emphasised the need to give people experiencing intolerable pain a "choice" about how they want to end their life. Consequently, the amazing work performed by palliative care hospices has been criticized and portrayed as being inadequate for 5-10% of the population.

The Bill is likely to face some considerable resistance in the House of Assembly from a number of pro-life MPs who have voiced their opposition to previous attempts to legalise euthanasia or assisted suicide in Tasmania.

Ben Smith, Spokesperson  
Live and Die Well, [www.livendiewell.org](http://www.livendiewell.org)



## "LEGALISING EUTHANASIA MAY INCREASE THE SUICIDE RATE" - Australian Care Alliance

In a speech to British Parliamentarians for World Suicide Prevention Day, Professor Theo Boer, a former supporter of legalised euthanasia in the Netherlands, warns that legalising euthanasia and physician assisted suicide may lead to an increase in the overall suicide rate. The speech, as published in Mercator Net, begins with Professor Boer explaining:

"One of the arguments we hear is that assisted dying will bring down the number of violent suicides. It will provide a more peaceful death to patients in unbearable suffering who would otherwise have violently killed themselves. For other patients, the mere option of assisted dying (even if it will never be effectuated) is said to be a reassuring thought that will keep them from killing themselves. I admit that these arguments may hold in individual cases. However, on the whole, the argument is mistaken."

He goes on to point out that in the Netherlands: "the suicide numbers went up: from 1,353 in 2007, they went up to 1,811 in 2019, a rise of 33.8 percent." In surrounding countries, most of which have no assisted dying practice, the suicide numbers went down." Professor Boer points to the well-documented Werther Effect as a possible explanation: "We already know from the literature that when one person takes their own life, it can be a catalyst for others. Indeed, there are over 50 peer-reviewed studies reaching the same conclusion in what has been dubbed suicide contagion, copycat suicides or the Werther Effect. Not without reason, and based on advice from the World Health Organisation, the media go to great lengths to censor details that could trigger further suicides.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said about their carefulness when reporting assisted suicide stories, the great majority of which express an ill-informed and naïve sympathy for assisted dying. The Netherlands should act as a cautionary tale ..."

[https://www.australiancarealliance.org.au/legalising\\_euthanasia\\_may\\_increase\\_the\\_suicide\\_rate](https://www.australiancarealliance.org.au/legalising_euthanasia_may_increase_the_suicide_rate)

# The Boy Behind The Heart Beat


It was August 2019 and little did we know that our response to a certain request would echo in our lives forever. We were asked not only once but twice, if we would be willing to allow for our unborn child's heartbeat to be broadcasted across the streets of Sydney, during a rally no one would ever forget. We said yes like it was no big deal. We had heard our little one's heartbeat numerous times upon visits with our gynaecologist, yet every time we heard it, we beamed with joy and giggled like little children excited about Christmas. It never actually occurred to us that there were so many souls who had never heard that delightful sound before.

That beautiful evening, in the middle of Martin Place, I was raised up on to a bench chair, holding tight to my husband's hand. The mega-phone was connected, the jell was placed on my tummy. The crowd of over 1000 people went silent. Then, so peacefully came that unspoken voice of our little boy. Like a little drum echoing the quiet streets of a sleepy village saying, "wake up people, and hear my voice!" Our little one's heartbeat spoke the greatest speech ever spoken, and still the leaders were deaf to his voice.

Our little Boy Behind the Heartbeat was born on the 21st of November 2019, and what a delightful young boy he is. A year has passed, and little reminders have allowed us to reminisce that beautiful event. We were so honoured and deeply humbled by how many people approached us, moved by our choice to have his heartbeat broadcasted twice across Sydney. Many claimed that they had never heard a baby's heartbeat before and what a beautiful sound it was.

Well, it's 2020 and we are delighted to be expecting our second baby in February 2021. We said that if there was ever another rally to take place this year, and if they needed another heartbeat, well, we were prepared to do it again. To defend the defenceless with one strong heartbeat ready for the streets of Sydney. We will always be a voice for the voiceless!

By Chantal

 Right to Life NSW  
20 August · 🌐

Remember when thousands of Aussies protested outside of NSW Parliament House to oppose an extreme abortion bill that would allow abortion up to birth. We will not stand for this!

#StandforLife #LovethemBoth #WewillNotForget #ThrowbackThursday

<https://youtu.be/E9IUPBX-qw8>



YOUTUBE.COM

**Unborn heartbeat at NSW abortion-bill protest Aug. 20, 2019**

SYDNEY, Australia, August 20, 2019 (LifeSiteNews) — As the winter night fell in Sydney, thousa...



# Members Section

## Nikos & Shiloh

Nikos & Shiloh were born on 9/11 [Sept 11, 2020], both weighing 3.3kg and 50cm. What a journey this was for both of us from finding out we were pregnant with twins, Covid happening and having to change most of the plans we had in mind, but we got through it! I was disappointed when I found out that my husband could not come in with me to my appointments through lockdown as I always pictured he'd be in the room to see the babies and hear their heartbeats. When it came to finding out their genders the staff at the imaging centre were very kind to allow me to FaceTime him and we were blessed to find out that we were having a boy and a girl!

Due to Covid I had to work from home which suited me well, but my hours were reduced. At one stage I came down with a cold and had to get tested for Covid, I also got my flu shot and whooping cough injections not long after that. Thank goodness, I didn't experience any side effects with the injections. I tried not to get myself too bogged down with what the news and social media was portraying and just remain positive throughout - I was still alive and our babies were doing well.

During labour, I was only allowed one support person and this did upset me at first as we had already planned to have my sister and mum in with us as well when I was going into labour. Our babies were born at 37 weeks and 5 days with healthy weights - all in all, we got through it & are now enjoying every second we have with our precious babies.

By Alora



## Ezekiel

I was 5 months pregnant when the first lockdown in Sydney happened. I was initially anxious due to the changes to our day to day lives. I also worried about not being able to buy essential items (as there were supply shortages at the supermarkets at the time). It turned out to be a blessing in disguise however with the pandemic causing workplaces across Sydney to work from home enabling me to spend my last few months at work, working at home with less stress and travel. A bonus was having my husband also on similar arrangements, providing us more time together at home before the birth of our first child.

An initial downside to pregnancy during the pandemic was not being able to have my husband at the medical check-ups due to limits at all facilities - he ended up listening in on the check ups by phone only. Something I had also always dreamed about was having a large and extravagant baby shower but due to laws at the time, I was deprived of this opportunity. I was however grateful to be thrown a surprise intimate baby shower where I celebrated with close family and friends.

The birth of my first child was a nerve-racking experience, but one I was blessed to go through. Our son, Ezekiel, was born on 3 July 2020 (3.205kgs /53 cms) long). Thankfully, I had no labour and deliver complications and many of the things I worried about, because of the pandemic, did not eventuate. The whole experience was a timely reminder for me to trust in God, and to only focus on the things that I could control and not to worry about the things beyond my control.

By Ashby



# How to get involved

If you have family members or friends who would like to become a member of Right to Life NSW, fill in the **Membership Form** on our website or contact us and we'll send you a form via email or in the post.



## We need volunteers to write cards!

Let's remind parliamentarians including the Premier and the Health Minister that we are still not okay with the legislation that's passed. We are encouraging people to write the simple message:

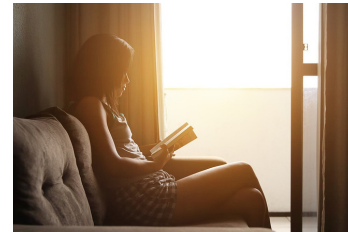
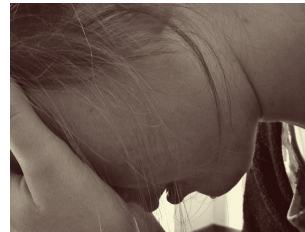
**WE WILL NOT FORGET  
WE WILL #VOTEPRO-LIFE2023**

Contact [members@righttolifensw.org.au](mailto:members@righttolifensw.org.au) if you'd like to participate.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on volunteers coming into our office, we will be happy to post these postcards out to you.

## FOUNDATION FOR *Human Development Inc.*

ESTABLISHED 1984



- The Foundation for Human Development Inc provides financial aid through grants to small Pregnancy Support Services around the state. All services are pro-life in their focus and are embedded in their local community. Many of these services rely on the Foundation to assist women they come in contact with for their financial needs.
- Please note: The Foundation only takes grant applications through approved Pregnancy Support Centres at this time. If you know anyone in need, feel free to contact the Foundation: [admin@ffhd.org.au](mailto:admin@ffhd.org.au) for a referral to a preferred provider of Pregnancy Support.
- The Foundation for Human Development Inc is a pro-life charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission with DGR status - this means all donations are fully tax deductible.



*Together we can make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable families*



### DONATE NOW:

All donations are fully Tax Deductible

**ABN: 74 209 110 972**

Registered charity with DGR Status = every donation can be claimed as a tax deduction.



**DONATE CHEQUES TO:  
GPO BOX 2642, SYDNEY 2001**



**EFT DONATION  
BSB: 032-000**

**ACCOUNT NO: 44-4230**

(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE  
REFERENCE FIELD)

Questions directly related to this charity: **Contact the Foundation: [admin@ffhd.org.au](mailto:admin@ffhd.org.au)**





# Pro-Life Christmas Poem

*A special Christmas poem written by Pro-Life Union associate Anne Hinnegan*

'Twas the night before Christmas and safe in her room  
Nadia sang to the babe in her womb  
She'd been down at the clinic just one week before  
When she met some kind people who offered her more

She was discouraged, her boyfriend had fled  
And visions of poverty ran through her head  
With nowhere to turn and a future of strife  
She a rode a bus to the city to take her child's life

Tears stained her face, there was no one to care  
Until she saw people, their heads bent in prayer  
They offered their help, asked her not to go in  
So much love was around, her head started to spin

A woman then asked her to go for a walk  
And gave her a number so she could just talk  
The PLU answered and generously gave  
This baby's life they would help save

And just six months later, a sweet girl was born  
Tears again flowed, but there was no need to mourn  
And Nadia thinks back to that Winter day  
She had nearly sent her precious gift away

So please pray this Christmas, and give if you can  
There are so many more who just need a hand  
We are so very blessed by the work that we do  
And it's truly because we are partners with you

Thank you so much, all our friends far and near  
Happy Christmas to all and a Blessed New Year!

(<https://prolifeunion.org/2019/12/19/a-christmas-poem-from-the-pro-life-union/>)




# Stay in touch



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37 Bligh Street,  
Sydney**

Office Hours Monday to  
Friday

9am - 1 pm

Please contact our office  
prior to your visit

 (02) 9299 8350

 [office@righttolifensw.org.au](mailto:office@righttolifensw.org.au)  <https://righttolifensw.org.au/>

*If you would like to contact our Media,  
Accounts, or Membership Officers, please  
contact them via their emails below and  
you will receive a reply at their earliest  
convenience:*

[accounts@righttolifensw.org.au](mailto:accounts@righttolifensw.org.au)

[media@righttolifensw.org.au](mailto:media@righttolifensw.org.au)

[members@righttolifensw.org.au](mailto:members@righttolifensw.org.au)

*Find us on Social  
Media!*



**Right to Life NSW**



## HOW TO DONATE

1.



**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CAN BE  
MADE OVER THE PHONE, ON THE  
WEBSITE VIA 'DONATE NOW' OR BY  
USING THE DONATION ENVELOPE  
ENCLOSED**

2.



**SEND CHEQUES PAYABLE TO  
RIGHT TO LIFE NSW**

3.



**EFT DONATION  
BSB: 032-000  
ACCOUNT NO# 78-9116**

(PLEASE INCLUDE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER  
IN THE REFERENCE FIELD)

## REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

Leave a legacy for future generations by remembering  
Right to Life NSW in your will.

We cannot provide you with specific legal advice, so  
please ensure you obtain your own independent legal  
advice on the most appropriate wording. Here is an  
example of wording you and your legal advisor may  
consider when you are preparing or updating your will:

**I GIVE, FREE OF ALL DUTIES OR TAXES, THE SUM OF  (OR  %  
OF MY ESTATE OR THE REST AND RESIDUE OF MY ESTATE) TO  
RIGHT TO LIFE NSW [ABN: 14 466 538 763] FOR ITS GENERAL  
PURPOSES**

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE LEFT US A GIFT IN YOUR  
WILL - WE WOULD LOVE TO THANK YOU!**