



Premier Daniel Andrews



Dr Rodney Syme  
Vice President DWDV

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ASSISTED DYING

### Dr Rodney Syme

The Victorian government has announced that it will introduce legislation for assisted dying in the second half of 2017. Both major parties have indicated that there will be a conscience vote.

The Premier, Daniel Andrews, made this announcement supported by the Health Minister and the Attorney-General. He was responding to the report of the Upper House Inquiry into End of Life Choices, which had recommended legislation for assisted dying, and provided a clear framework for such a law. The Premier indicated that his recent experience with his father, who died after a long illness from cancer, had been influential in forming his view. A strong majority of the cabinet is supportive.

The government has appointed a seven-member advisory panel, chaired by AMA past President Brian Owler, to provide further detailed advice regarding the form of legislation. The most critical issue to be resolved is that of the criteria for disease status allowing assistance. The report stated that the patient must have a serious and incurable condition that is causing enduring and unbearable suffering that can't be relieved; but it also stated that the patient must be in the final weeks or months of life, suggesting they must have a terminal illness. Intolerable and unrelievable suffering is not confined to terminal illness, so the resolution of this paradox will be of enormous significance in the final form of the bill, and its fate in the parliament.

Even though there will be considerable delay before legislation is passed and becomes operative, I commend the government on the care it is taking to ensure that precise legislation is passed which will work effectively when implemented.

When this legislation is presented, it will be the first Bill since 1996 to be put forward by government and supported by the Premier – these are important requisites for success. A further requisite is community support. Over to you and your friends.

## 'VISIT YOUR MP' ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

During 2016, DWDV ran a campaign that involved members visiting their own State MPs to discuss voluntary assisted dying laws. The aim was to provide the MPs with information and also find out where they sit on the issue and what their concerns are. Thanks to the hard work done by those of you who got involved, we now have information on most of Victoria's Members of Parliament:

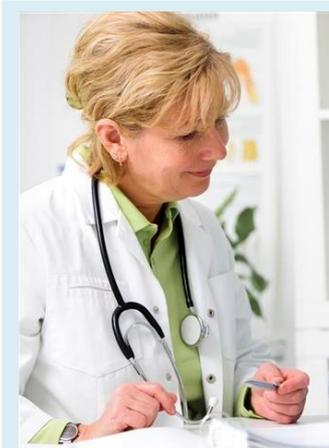
By Party	Supportive	Opposed	Uncommitted	Not visited
Labor	37	3	8	13
Liberal	15	14	9	6
Victorian Greens	7			
Nationals		3	4	3
Australian Sex Party	1			
Independent				1
Shooters and Fishers	1		1	
Democratic Labour Party		1		
Vote 1 Local Jobs	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
By House				
Lower	39	16	17	16
Upper	23	5	5	7



Still interested in visiting your MP? Or writing to let them know you support voluntary assisted dying?

Then call our office on 9874 0503 or email [comms@dwdv.org.au](mailto:comms@dwdv.org.au) for further advice and helpful information.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT PLANNING AND DECISIONS ACT 2016



Talk to your GP about your health care wishes.



The first of our general workshops this year will run on 13 February and the first dementia-specific workshop on 6 March.

Last year several workshops were booked out in advance. So best reserve your spot now.

Register on line by [CLICKING HERE](#) or call the DWDV office on 9874 0503.

**Last November, the Parliament of Victoria passed the Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016, which will grant legal recognition of advance care directives.**

The aim of the new legislation is to simplify current laws and enable Victorians to express their values and preferences as to end-of-life care, and to give binding instructions about future medical treatment options.

The Act will also provide us with the opportunity to appoint a ‘medical decision maker’ to make those medical treatment choices on our behalf, should we lose the capacity to do so ourselves.

### Key facts

- When it comes into effect on 12 March 2018, the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016* will provide full legal recognition of advance care directives.
- Until then, current advance care directives remain valid, but with standing only under common law.
- It is time now to start planning or revising your current directive – decide who should be your medical decision maker, and which treatments you would want to accept or reject in the case of possible future medical conditions.
- DWDV has updated its workshop information and forms to reflect the new legislation.

This new Act grants us better choices and control over future medical treatment, and thereby is an encouragement to initiate (or continue) conversations with family members and doctors about treatments and interventions we would or would not want as end of life approaches.

DWDV commends the work of the Victorian government in formulating this legislation. For almost twenty years we have been advocating for advance care directives to be legally recognised. At last in this State there is now a framework evolving for increased personal autonomy when it comes to dying.

We look forward to continuing to provide you with essential and accurate information and documents at the workshops scheduled for 2017.

**Note: the Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act does not allow for voluntary assisted dying practices.** DWDV will continue its work in 2017 – advocating to MPs, health care organisations and the general public, that voluntary assisted dying must be introduced in Victoria.

## ACTIVITY IN OTHER STATES . . .

### Tasmania

The Tasmanian *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2016* was moved in the Parliament on November 17. It will be debated after Parliament resumes in March 2017.

The Bill proposes that assisted death would be available only after a rigorous process to establish no reasonable chance of recovery, or improvement of condition, or relief of suffering. It also proposes an independent Registrar with significant powers and responsibilities to monitor and review all deaths and submit an annual report to Parliament.

### Western Australia

The Western Australia State election takes place on March 11. Dr Alida Lancee, who was investigated by police after detailing her involvement in assisting a patient to die five years ago, has stated that she is considering running in the election against State Premier Colin Barnett, to draw attention to the assisted dying issue.

Draft legislation is expected to be tabled in the WA Parliament after the election, with a group of MPs, led by Robin Chapple, currently putting together the documentation.

### New South Wales

A cross-party working group is finalising draft legislation that will be released for public consultation in the coming months.

The group hopes to introduce the bill into the NSW Upper House for consideration in the second half of 2017, at which point MPs from all major parties would be granted a conscience vote.

## VCAT RULES IN FAVOUR OF DR RODNEY SYME



Dying With Dignity Victoria is delighted by the recent VCAT ruling on a case brought before it by Dr Rodney Syme. Dr Syme had appealed a condition placed on his medical licence by the Medical Board of Australia in relation to counselling he was providing to a terminally ill Victorian man.

The final report released by VCAT clearly detailed and exonerated the work that Dr Syme does in counselling incurably ill people with unrelievable suffering as they near the end of their lives.

**In determining that Dr Syme's practices and counselling are intended to relieve suffering and not primarily aimed at ending a person's life, VCAT has deemed them not a risk or a danger to the community.** It cited Dr Syme's knowledge of palliative care, his extensive experience in counselling people experiencing irremediable end-of-life suffering, and the professional manner in which he provides that counselling.

Coming from a legal body with the weight of VCAT, this is a landmark ruling, and another step forward in our progress towards seeing voluntary assisted dying law enabled in Victoria.

### *From the VCAT report . . .*

*'Dr Syme's practice is limited to advising and assisting patients who are in the final stages of terminal illness and to whom a sense of control over their dying is important. His patients seek him out. He does not advertise for patients.*

*He therefore has contact only with those patients who self-identify as being part of a cohort for whom traditional palliative care options may not be acceptable. Having been contacted by them, he assists only those whom he is satisfied are in a sound state of mind and whose death from their disease is inevitable or whose disease has progressed to the extent that their lives have become intolerable to them.*

*It is widely accepted in palliative medicine that, consistent with this clause, doses of medicine may be given to patients to relieve their pain and suffering even though it is foreseeable and indeed inevitable that those doses will also have the effect of hastening the patient's death.*

*The use of morphine and sedatives for this purpose is widely accepted and meets the needs of many patients. However, not all patients wish to receive that form of palliative care because of the loss of dignity, control and comfort which can be associated with it.'*

## FAREWELL KEN CLEMENTS



**Ken Clements (centre) flanked by fellow Ballarat members Roy Shrieke and Barbara Morison, pictured on the steps of Parliament House, Melbourne, after taking part in a DWDV demonstration demanding action on dying with dignity law reform, some years ago.**

Sadly, DWDV lost one of its hardest working members in January 2017, with the passing of Ken Clements in Ballarat.

Having joined the organisation in 1990, Ken became convenor of the Ballarat group of members, who have been extremely active in raising the issue of voluntary assisted dying with politicians in their area.

Ken's home was the group's meeting place over the years and members enjoyed his jolly hospitality each time – starting with a cup of tea and a chat before the commencement of meetings.

Ken provided wise, respectful and supportive counsel on end of life issues to many local people and their families, and spoke on the subject to various local community groups.

His leadership and enthusiasm in advocating for end-of-life choices will be greatly missed by everyone at Dying With Dignity Victoria.

***I believe everyone faced with a terminal illness or the gradual obliteration of the mind by Alzheimer's or other dementia should be able to choose the time for their death and have the right to seek assistance for that purpose.***

Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC, former judge and human rights advocate

## DWDV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Dying With Dignity Victoria's 2016 annual general meeting (AGM) took place on Saturday 5 November at the Unitarian Church in East Melbourne.

Board members were delighted to see more than one hundred members attending – some travelling from as far away as Ballarat. Guest speaker was Andrew Denton, who spoke impressively about the need for well-considered assisted dying legislation, as well as outlining some of the lessons learned from campaigning in South Australia with his 'Go Gentle Australia' organisation.

### Retiring Board members – Michael Tinsley and Kenneth Davidson

DWDV warmly thanks Mike Tinsley and Ken Davidson for their services as Board Members following their retirement at the recent 2016 AGM. We look forward to their continued support.

**Mike** joined our organisation in 2002 as a Life Member. He became a Board Member in 2005 and, with his strong financial background, served as Treasurer from 2009 to 2013 and also as a member of the Strategy Committee. Mike has been continuously involved in DWDV's pursuit of law reform. His willingness to assist whenever he could – setting up for events, helping in the office, and spreading the word at every opportunity – has been invaluable.



**Mike Tinsley with MLA Fiona Patten, a staunch supporter of assisted dying law reform.**

**Ken** has been an Ambassador for Law Reform since 2010, and became a Board Member in 2014. Like Mike, he is a longstanding supporter of assisted dying. His contribution to various media channels (including the Age, the magazine *Dissent*, and our own newsletter) allows him to reach a wide audience.



### Rodney Syme Medal 2016

Each year the Rodney Syme medal is awarded to a person who has made an outstanding and distinguished effort in pursuing the Dying With Dignity cause. At the AGM, the 2016 medal was presented to Andrew Denton for his enormous effort in fostering media interest in voluntary assisted dying, including by creating **Go Gentle Australia**, which has been remarkably effective in raising awareness of the need for safe and compassionate assisted dying laws. The Board was delighted to recognise Andrew's contribution and looks forward to continuing our joint efforts in 2017.



**Andrew shows his Rodney Syme Medal – with Rodney, and DWDV President Lesley Vick.**

### New board member – Carmel McNaught

Carmel has had a long career in university education, working mostly in Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Southern Africa, the United Arab Republic and the UK.

Watching her mother die recently enabled a crystallisation of her views about death and she turned to DWDV as a strategy to support the enactment of her own beliefs and those of her friends.



She says:

*'We as a nation hold this freedom of belief as a right and a strength of our national identity. We also pride ourselves in having a humane and caring society, which means that the rights of those who are fragile as a result of serious ill health must be acknowledged. Let's be open in our discussions about end-of-life choices, respect that there is a multiplicity of views, and legislate so that individual rights and beliefs are treated with integrity and fairness. No one need die alone!'*

## PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY REPORT FOR 2016\*

It is particularly pleasing to be making this year's report which records significant developments in our campaign for Voluntary Assisted Dying law reform.

Following the inquiry by the Victorian Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee, the End of Life Choices (ELC) report was tabled in parliament on 9 June 2016. The committee's chairperson, Edward O'Donohue, commented that the committee was overwhelmed by the extent of public interest. DWDV had significant input with our written submission, and Dr Rodney Syme and I appeared as witnesses. Many of our members made personal submissions as part of the 1000-plus submissions received by the committee.

Overall the report is comprehensive, measured and extremely well-researched, including visits to overseas jurisdictions with VAD regimes by several of the committee members. Importantly, the report rejects the status quo as an inadequate, head-in-the-sand approach to policy making and the plight of the Victorians discussed in the report. Further, the Committee states that the evidence is conclusive that assisted dying can be provided in a way that guards against abuse and protects the vulnerable in a way that unlawful and unregulated assisted dying does not.



The impact of the VAD law reform campaign has benefited enormously from the involvement of well-known broadcaster, Andrew Denton. Andrew has established Go Gentle Australia, a pro-VAD national advocacy organisation. DWDV has helped fund this organisation and we are

working collaboratively with Andrew and his team.

Andrew's own public advocacy and podcasts have been widely accessed and the [Go Gentle Australia website](#) is an invaluable resource for information, personal stories and videos. We look forward to working alongside Go Gentle Australia in 2017.

I attended the World Federation of Right to Die Societies biennial conference in Amsterdam in May. A detailed report on this conference was included with the Winter issue of our newsletter, but the highlights included confirmation of international momentum in the direction of law reform, most recently in the USA's most populous state, California.

DWDV has continued to maintain media coverage overall with regular positive articles in major newspapers and we pursue publicity whenever opportunities arise via press releases, interviews and social media. We provide speakers to community groups and we maintain connections with other relevant organisations.

All members of the hardworking DWDV board have made valuable and ongoing contributions to our work during this busy time. Rodney Syme remains indefatigable in his contribution to our cause, running workshops among his many other activities. Our Strategy Committee, chaired by Dorothy Reading, comprises Rodney Syme, John Hont, Judith Hoy, Hugh Sarjeant, Mike Tinsley and myself. We have met frequently to ensure all aspects of our campaign for VAD are on track.

Responses to the government inquiries, campaign funding, our member advocate campaign, letters and questionnaires sent to MPs, and the myriad other aspects of our work need to be targeted and appropriate. Our members play a vital role in this, and their engagement with local MPs (armed with our advocacy/information kits) is crucial.

I also wish to extend particular thanks to DWDV member Ken Clements who has provided continuous leadership to the Ballarat Group since 2008. DWDV members in the Ballarat region are strong supporters but they have limited opportunities for full participation in city-based meetings and other activities because of distance. Ken has held the Ballarat group together by organising meetings and workshops, as well as meeting with local MPs and giving counsel to many people on end of life issues. [Sadly, as reported on page 3, Ken Clements passed away in January.]

As I noted at the beginning, now is a really significant time in our advocacy and we must all play a part in achieving our aim of humane VAD laws. The current situation provides us with the best opportunity we have had to succeed, so please ensure that your parliamentary representatives hear your voice and that you encourage others to speak up in support as well.

**Lesley Vick**  
DWDV President



\*[Full report provided at AGM and now available on DWDV's website.](#)

**TREASURER'S SUMMARY REPORT** for 12 months to 30 June 2016

As an Incorporated Association with annual gross revenue of less than \$250,000, Dying with Dignity Victoria Inc (DWDV) is not required to have its financial statements reviewed or audited by an external auditor. Nonetheless, as a best practice measure, the Board members decided that DWDV's accounts should be subject to independent external audit.

I am very pleased to report that the accounts of DWDV for the year ended 30th June 2016 were audited by Collins & Co. The Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2016 is available on our website and copies were made available at the Annual General Meeting.

I confirm that all financial activities undertaken by DWDV during the 2015/16 financial year were consistent with and aligned to the organisation's aims and legislative charter.

Further, I confirm that the key responsibilities of the Treasurer, as outlined below, were duly fulfilled and for the 2015/16 financial year, the Board is satisfied that:

- There was adequate oversight of the financial operations undertaken by the organisation, including the integrity and reliability of systems used to capture and record financial data.
- It was advised and aware of the organisation's financial position, and was well placed to assess inherent risks that were identified.
- Adequate internal controls were in place.
- Expenditure was properly monitored and reported to ensure that DWDV operated within its means.
- Best practice compliance with regard to accounting policies and corporate governance principles was adopted.

For the current reporting period – the year ended 30 June 2016 – DWDV closed with a loss of \$117,298.

This result is not of concern to the Board because during the 2016 financial year, there was unbudgeted expenditure of \$55,000 which was incurred in respect of a donation to Go Gentle Australia. The decision to incur this unplanned expenditure was a conscious, strategic decision taken by the Board.

Movement in Net Asset Base Financial Year Ended 30th June:						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Assets	525,506	490,840	430,870	492,347	479,583	358,882
Total Liabilities	13,502	10,906	10,494	1,140	6,972	3,569
Net Assets	512,004	479,934	420,376	491,207	472,611	355,313
Total Equity	512,004	479,934	420,376	491,207	472,611	355,313
Movement		(32,070)	(59,558)	70,530	(18,296)	(117,298)
		Loss	Loss	Surplus	Loss	Loss

Dying With Dignity Victoria Inc. Income & Expenditure Statement - Summary 2014-2015 and 2015-2016			
	2014-2015	2015-2016	%
	\$	\$	Change
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations	122,938	75,511	
Interest Received	10,053	12,307	
Membership Fees	55,323	46,650	
Sundry Income	3,585	1,229	
Workshop Fees	7,015	7,750	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>198,914</b>	<b>143,447</b>	<b>-28%</b> Decrease
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee Costs	116,195	135,472	
Rent & Utilities	27,116	24,811	
IT & Communications	8,843	5,444	
Printing, Postage & Supplies	15,130	9,612	
Conferences & Meetings	4,088	7,781	
Workshop Expenses	554	590	
Bank Charges	3,375	2,123	
Gifts, Donations & Prizes	357	497	
Depreciation	3,159	13,019	
Fundraising Expenses	-	1,749	
Campaign Expenses	5,611	55,408	
Peter Short Documentary Film Expenditure	30,000	-	
Professional & Copyright Fees	434	2,118	
Legislative Council Inquiry Expenses	2,348	2,121	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>217,210</b>	<b>260,745</b>	<b>-17%</b> Increase
<b>NET PROFIT OR (LOSS)</b>	<b>(18,296)</b>	<b>(117,298)</b>	

Dying With Dignity Victoria Inc. Income & Expenditure Statement - Against Budget Year Ended 30th June 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations	75,511	65,321	10,190
Interest Received	12,307	12,274	33
Membership Fees	46,650	55,225	-8,575
Sundry Income	1,229	2,020	-791
Workshop Fees	7,750	7,000	750
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>143,447</b>	<b>141,840</b>	<b>1,607</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee Costs	135,472	145,673	-10,201
Rent & Utilities	24,811	29,285	-4,474
IT & Communications	5,444	4,621	823
Printing, Postage & Supplies	9,612	12,487	-2,875
Conferences & Meetings	7,781	7,445	336
Workshop Expenses	590	563	27
Bank Charges	2,123	3,480	-1,357
Gifts, Donations & Prizes	497	878	-381
Depreciation	13,019	3,160	9,859
Fundraising Expenses	1,749	1,377	372
Campaign Expenses	55,408	8,000	47,408
Professional & Copyright Fees	2,118	2,118	0
Legislative Council Inquiry Expenses	2,121	2,121	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>260,745</b>	<b>221,208</b>	<b>39,537</b>
<b>NET PROFIT OR (LOSS)</b>	<b>(117,298)</b>	<b>(79,368)</b>	<b>(37,930)</b>

## Treasurer's Summary Report continued\*

### Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016 shows the assets owned and the liabilities payable by DWDV. The net of these assets (defined as assets less liabilities) is represented by the Total Equity. Details can be seen at the bottom of the Statement of Financial Position in the Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2016 prepared by the auditors.

DWDV's assets consist primarily of the cash balances held in various term deposit accounts, plus the cash balance in the main trading/operating bank account. All term deposits are invested in government guaranteed banks. At maturity, each term deposit is reviewed and re-invested to optimise returns.

As at the end of the 2015/16 financial year the only liabilities due related to employee accrued annual leave. All sundry creditors, superannuation guarantee and PAYG payments were made prior to 30 June 2016.

There are no going financial issues that would impact the organisation in the short to medium term – 6 to 12 months – and the Board is comfortable that DWDV is able to settle its obligations as and when they fall due.

Further, the Board is confident that DWDV can build on the 2015/16 financial year results to further stabilise the organisation financially while having increased flexibility to deliver on the organisational aims and stated strategies.

**Mark Newstead, DWDV Treasurer**

[\\*Full report provided at AGM and now available on DWDV's website.](#)

## 'HARD LESSONS' – ANDREW DENTON'S AGM ADDRESS

Andrew Denton, winner of this year's Rodney Syme Medal and guest speaker at our AGM in November, bluntly laid out some of the lessons to be learned from the work and outcomes of the Dying With Dignity movement over recent decades. His conclusions were



reached from an intensive study of the 30 or so failed attempts to have voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws passed in various Australian states. Andrew believes we ignore these lessons at our peril.

Despite the positive report from the Inquiry into End of Life Choices by Victoria's Legislative Council Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues, and the publicised backing of VAD by some eight government ministers, it is far from inevitable that the introduction of a VAD law will follow. Andrew detailed some of the headwinds we will face over the next 6-12 months.

**The biggest enemy is ignorance about end of life matters in general, and VAD in particular.** This ignorance is profoundly prevalent among members of parliament and the medical profession, not to mention the general community. Our principal challenge is to educate these groups and turn them from non-supporters into supporters.

**Too often in the past, VAD bills have been based on what might be considered by some as extreme ideology,** rather than a pragmatic approach aimed at the 'sensible centre', which is more likely to gain wider acceptance.

**The concepts and language used in any VAD bill will need to be simple.** MPs must be able to explain easily to their constituents what is intended and the safeguards proposed. Lack of understanding is the greatest force against VAD legislation. Plain English is needed, as in Oregon's and California's VAD legislation.

**We need to identify the likely reasonable objections to VAD from the various interest groups,** and 'reverse engineer' any proposed legislation to directly counter these. For example, bring disability groups on board by advocating that the bill must exclude disability (on its own) as qualifying a person for VAD.

**Opponents will run any line of attack to discredit us and persuade politicians not to act,** and when one line of attack fails they use another, and another – 'Not This Bill!' is a key strategy likely to be used by opponents.

**Eligibility criteria for VAD should include competence and physical terminal illness with less than 12 months to live,** to have a higher likelihood of having the bill passed, according to Andrew.

**We will need an excellent publicist to keep the media well briefed. But most of all, MPs want to hear from their constituents – which is something all DWDV members can do.**

*'I am an ambassador for law reform because I believe we must have a legal framework that gives us all control to achieve, as much as is possible, a dignified and good death.'*

Prof Rob Moodie AM, Professor of Public Health at the Melbourne School of Population Health

## 2017 WORKSHOPS & GATHERINGS . . . for your diary

Event	Dates & Times	Venue
<p><b>How the Law Applies to Dying with Dignity</b> Find out about Victoria’s current and possible future legislation and how DWDV can help you document your treatment or refusal wishes.</p>	<p><b>Monday 13 February</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p> <p><b>Monday 1 May</b> <i>Evening: 6.30 – 9.00pm</i></p> <p><b>Monday 31 July</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p> <p><b>Monday 9 October</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p>	<p>Kew Library (Phyllis Hore Room)  Corner Cotham Road and Civic Drive, Kew</p>
<p><b>Death with Dignity in Dementia</b> Learn about dementia, its effects, diagnosis and management, plus how our Advance Care Directive for Dementia can document your treatment or refusal wishes.</p>	<p><b>Monday 6 March</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p> <p><b>Monday 5 June</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p> <p><b>Monday 28 August</b> <i>Morning: 10.00am – 12.30pm</i></p>	
<p><b>Meet &amp; Greet – Members Information Session</b> Meet like-minded people and hear about the history and current work of DWDV. Bring a friend if you like.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 8 April</b> 2.15 – 4.00pm</p> <p><b>Saturday 9 September</b> 2.15 – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Balwyn Evergreen Centre 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn</p>
<p><b>2017 Annual General Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday 4 November</b></p>	<p>Unitarian Church, 110 Grey Street East Melbourne</p>

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS TO BOARD MEMBERS

Two DWDV Board members have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

**Dorothy Reading OAM** was recognised for her major role in establishing successful cancer prevention programs such as Quit, BreastScreen Victoria, and PapScreen Victoria.

**Meredith Doig OAM**, who is also President of the Rationalist Society of Australia, was recognised for her service to community, higher education and business.

*DWDV congratulates them both. We are fortunate to have them on our Board of Management.*

### 2017 Board Members

								
<b>Lesley Vick, President</b>	<b>Dr Rodney Syme, Vice President</b>	<b>Mark Newstead, Secretary / Treasurer</b>	<b>Meredith Doig</b>	<b>John Hont</b>	<b>Judith Hoy</b>	<b>Carmel McNaught</b>	<b>Dorothy Reading</b>	<b>Hugh Sarjeant</b>

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Patrons: Mr Julian Burnside QC, Hon. Rod Mackenzie OAM, Hon. Ian Macphee AO

President: Lesley Vick; Vice-President: Dr Rodney Syme; Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Newstead;  
Other Board Members: Meredith Doig, John Hont, Judith Hoy, Carmel McNaught, Dorothy Reading, Hugh Sarjeant. Special Adviser: Lyn Allison