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Australian Federal Police Association

Media Release

AFPA supports the restoration of territory rights to legalise voluntary assisted dying

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) supports the legislation tabled yesterday (Monday 1 August 2022) by the Federal Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling OAM, MP and Federal Member for Canberra, Alicia Payne MP to restore territory rights to the Australian Capital Territory to legalise voluntary assisted dying.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that supporting territory rights in relation to voluntary assisting dying could have welfare and psychological benefits to the members of ACT Policing.

“Members of ACT Policing often attend suicides in the ACT, and these are traumatic for the family and attending police officers. Members have informed us that some people with a terminal illness commit suicide due to their health diagnoses and suffering and leave a suicide note stating they want to die on their terms with dignity and before their condition becomes worse.

“If introducing voluntary assisting dying in a controlled manner, with the appropriate legislated safeguards in place, stops one person from committing suicide and becoming a police investigation and coronial matter, then it’s something that must be explored,” Mr Caruana said.

END STATEMENT

For comments:

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