

# **VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA RESEARCH REPORT**

*Prepared for*



by

**Enterprise Marketing & Research Services Pty Ltd,  
60 Main Road, Moonah, TAS 7009  
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## About the Survey

The survey was conducted between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

In the current round, 1000 householders were interviewed by telephone. Of these, 500 were from the South, 280 from the North and North East and 220 from the North West and West Coast regions.

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## Voluntary Euthanasia

1000 Tasmanian adults were interviewed by telephone between Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

### Question:

Thinking about voluntary euthanasia where a doctor complies with the wishes of a dying patient to have his or her life ended; are you in favour of or against a change in the law that would allow doctors to comply with the wishes of a dying patient to end his or her life?

**Table 1 – In Favour of or Against a Change in the Law Regarding Voluntary Euthanasia**

Response	Percentage of the entire sample		Percentage excluding those unsure or unwilling to answer	
	2008 N=1000	2009 N=1000	2008 N=884	2009 N=928
In favour of changing the law to allow doctors to meet the patient's wish to end their life	75	78	85	84
Against changing the law to allow doctors to meet the patients wish to end their life	14	15	15	16
Unsure	5	6	-	-
Unwilling to answer	7	1	-	-

Over three quarters (78%) of the entire sample were "in favour of changing the law to allow doctors to meet the patient's wish to end their life" (an increase when compared to 75% in 2008). When the respondents who were "unsure" or "unwilling to answer" were excluded, this rose to 84% (compared to 85% in 2008).

## In Favour of Changing the Law

Over 80% of each demographic sample was “in favour” of changing the law to allow doctors to meet the patient’s wish to end their life, except for respondents who were Liberal Voters (77%) or 70 years or older (70%). However, even amongst these demographic groups, the percentage in favour of changing the law was still quite high.

**Table 2 – In Favour of Changing the Law to Allow Doctors to Meet the Patients Wish to End Their Life (Percentage of each demographic excluding unsure and unwilling to answer)**

Category	March 2008	May 2009
<b>Overall</b>	85	84
<b>Region</b>		
South	84	87
North and North East	87	81
North west and West	85	83
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	82	90
25-34	90	81
35-44	85	91
45-54	89	87
55-69	82	85
70+ years	81	70
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	83	84
Female	86	85
<b>Household</b>		
Single	75	83
Couple/no children	88	88
Family with all children under 16	89	86
Family with a child over 16 at home	85	85
Married – children left home	84	81
Widow	82	82
Sole Parent	89	86
Separated or divorced	91	88
<b>Political Parties Supporting and Leaning Towards</b>		
Labor	84	86
Liberal	83	77
Greens	89	94
Independent	83	93
Unsure	85	83

## Against Changing the Law

There has been a large increase in respondents aged 70 years and over who are against changing the law when compared to the previous round (19% in 2008 compared to 30% in 2009). Except for respondents aged 70 years and over, no more than one quarter (25%) of each demographic sample were against changing the law to allow doctors to meet their patients' wish to end their life.

**Table 3 – Against Changing the Law to Allow Doctors to Meet the Patient's wish to End Their Life (Percentage of each demographic excluding unsure and unwilling to answer)**

Category	March 2008	May 2009
<b>Overall</b>	15	16
<b>Region</b>		
South	17	13
North and North East	13	19
North West and West	15	17
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	18	10
25-34	10	19
35-44	15	9
45-54	12	13
55-69	18	15
70+ years	19	30
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	17	16
Female	14	15
<b>Household</b>		
Single	25	17
Couple/no children	13	12
Family with all children under 16	12	14
Family with a child over 16 at home	15	15
Married – children left home	17	19
Widow	18	18
Sole Parent	12	14
Separated or divorced	9	12
<b>Political Parties Supporting and Leaning Towards</b>		
Labor	16	14
Liberal	17	23
Greens	11	6
Independent	17	7
Unsure	15	17