

To: Jamie Parker MP, Member for Balmain and Others for forward direction

From: Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank Street, Glebe, Sydney  
[www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Hi Jamie, Dying with Dignity, and others

### **VOTE BASTARDS OUT AT THE NEXT ELECTION (VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING)**

Thank you for the part your organizations played in ensuring the Parliament of NSW passed the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (2022). According to NSW Health website, the Act will allow eligible people the choice to access voluntary assisted dying from 28.11.23. From now until 2023 the NSW Ministry of Health (NSW Health) will plan for and implement voluntary assisted dying in NSW. As one of around 70% of people in NSW who supported assisted dying, according to many polls, I seek your further assurances that the passage of this legislation will not be wasted in my case. I draw your attention to related regional and personal matters below and attached. For Christ's sake help me to get rid of the arseholes who voted against assisted death.

I refer first to canny, experienced, NSW Green MP, Jamie Parker's letter of 28.7.22, from his Balmain office, thanking me for completing his on-line community survey. It is good to know that except for my death wish, that I address later, the most common concerns of local residents that he hears about are also mine. These are:

- Climate change and our campaigns to protect nature
- Planning over-development and the need to preserve local heritage
- Local public transport
- A range of other local matters from street parking to local trees

I hope these concerns will also be reflected by the federal representative of this area, Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Environment and Water, and carried to the Treasurer's September **Summit on Jobs and Skills** for related consideration. I also note the Independent Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore and others often led this direction. See related global, local and regional directions attached. These follow World Health Organization (WHO) and service concepts developed before they were again trashed in NSW government in the 1980s, by older commercial law and practice.

It seems that much wasteful bureaucracy is addressed often to the same small groups, who also appear encouraged not to open up without lawyers. This can never maximise better understanding in the service of the people of Australia and globally, which is why I often oppose it. I guess many Christians and those of other faiths may also feel usurped by the law of better understanding or compassion with the other. However much I share their concerns, as an atheist grandma, my beef is different. (See the related regional discussions on Australia's potential in the world attached.)

According to the last Australian census, Christianity is the most common religion in Australia, with **43% of our population identifying as Christian**. This has dropped from 52% in 2016. While fewer people are reporting their religion as Christian, more are reporting 'no religion'. **Almost 40 per cent of Australia's population reported having no religion in the 2021 Census, an increase from 30% in 2016**. I do not speak of other faiths lest any are confused about what should be here. **ATHEISTS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!** Tell this to obnoxious politicians who disrespected their representative roles and all of us, by voting against legislation to help people who want to die earlier than they otherwise might with medical or nursing intervention. (Get away from me you black crows? Only joking?)

As a result of considering your future direction I urge you all to try unseating men who voted against assisted dying legislation in NSW. DWD recently invited me to a Zoom discussion of the Act and the aftermath next Wednesday. Sadly, I lost the notice and it wasn't on the DWD website. I nearly always prefer information in writing anyway. The best thing about the DWD contact was the list of arseholes, starting with the two major party leaders (Christians naturally) who opposed the Act.

We all die, and so affect the rest. To turn away from people in their hour of need, by trying to deny them the right to an assisted death, as many NSW politicians recently did, angers me as an old atheist and woman. Who do these men, as most of them are, think they represent when they act to deny a right which I may be claiming soon for very good reasons?

### **WHEN THE POLITICAL IS PERSONAL, IT'S SISTER TO YOU (GOD KNOWS I NEED HELP)**

I address the coming NSW government election in a related individual or personal light in regard to the direction of your good work in parliament for assisted dying. I hesitate to tell you this is just the beginning because the thought only fills me with depression. This has relevance for the future of Dying with Dignity (DWD) as well as the place of Australia in the world as a civilized nation, attempting to serve the people its tiered governments supposedly must represent together. The alternative seems to be to have a lot of men with guns push you around and eventually kill you or your kids and other family members, after making you homeless and starving in many cases. I wonder later if local billionaire and Chinese art and journalism patron, Judith Neilson and her ex-hubby can help in any way. For example, in the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH 26.8.22 p. 20), the article **Arts experts to oversee cultural direction**, refers to Commonwealth Minister Tony Burke's attempt to develop a strategy 'for the way cultural practices fit into the economy and society'. He pointed out 'this is not an arts policy, it's a cultural policy, a whole of government policy'. Apparently, this meant portfolios such as health, foreign affairs and education might contribute to it and benefit from it.

I love the huge potential of SBS TV and radio in any multicultural society like Australia. However, I guess those to approach now, following the Keating Government's establishment of this Creative Nation policy in 1994, are Judith Neilson and her former husband, Kerr. All I know is what I read in the reputable press. She established The Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas in late 2018 when donating at least \$100 million to create a centre for

journalism, based in Australia but with global reach and ambition. She is also the owner of the local White Rabbit gallery in Chippendale which has one of the world's most significant collections of Chinese contemporary art, and other property. Newspapers now claim she has broken her silence on the ruckus inside her institute, citing audacious plans to create an Australian "Nobel Prize" in the institute bearing her name as the reason for her falling out with its management. Neilson has sold the remainder of her Platinum Asset Management shareholding via a \$70 million block trade handled by Jarden Australia. What now?

Apparently, her former husband, Kerr Neilson, is getting out of Platinum Asset Managers, which he established almost thirty years ago to take advantage of Australia's newly burgeoning compulsory superannuation system. The article ***Neilson flags Platinum board exit, profits slide*** in the Australian Financial Review (AFR 26.8.22 p. 29) has a great account which should appear clear to those more knowledgeable than I about its full meaning. Why not discuss these matters with Judith Neilson? What are this 'couple' or not, doing now?

Personally, I would be grateful for any help you can give me to find Nixon Apple, formerly from the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) superannuation and trade unions stable, to set up a face-to-face meeting. I discuss my personal bucket list later and wonder about many others whose last wishes may be a lot different from mine. For example, it seems noteworthy that NSW Health now allows ***medical and nursing practitioners that meet certain eligibility criteria defined in the act***, to undertake the role of administering practitioner in regard to implementation of voluntary assisted dying. What change this means to us and to me as an individual I can only guess. Note that men now have many ways to legitimise their death wishes in their own eyes and others. This normally shifts the bodily burden of care and humanity onto those left.

The abstract of research by Zeinab Hemati and nine others, in the National Library of Medicine (Pub.Med) addresses this key matter of what dying with dignity entails. The writers of ***'Dying with Dignity: A concept analysis*** come from faculties of nursing and midwifery at the Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, and the Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch of the Islamic Azad University, in Iran. This analysis of the concept *'dying with dignity'* searched multiple nursing and social sciences databases. These included: Academic Search Complete, Science Direct, ProQuest, Scopus, Medline, PubMed, EBSCO, Ovid, Noormage, Cinahl, Magiran, PsycINFO and SID. The writers conclude the dignity of dying patients is commensurate with their culture and is the most important component of care provided by nurses to facilitate a peaceful death. I agree. When will Christian law and practice adapt to include us all? Can it?

Based on this analysis of Iranian origin, the most important common attributes of the concept *'dying with dignity'* apparently included *"respect for privacy, respect, spiritual peace and hope. The antecedents of this concept included consideration of moral values during caregiving, preservation of human dignity as a patient right and professional ethics, and belief in the dignity of self and others, consideration of culture in providing end-of-life care. The consequences of this concept included a sense of peace in the patient and their family, peaceful death and provision of patient privacy and comfort."* The researchers conclude that considering the dignity of dying patients

commensurate with their culture, is the most important component of care provided by nurses to facilitate a peaceful death. As a 75-year-old atheist grandma I agree. Give me a pleasantly assisted death if and when I want. This is for the good of all.

**THIS ADDRESS ON OUR DEATH RAISES THE KEY QUESTIONS BELOW FOR LOCALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND DWD OR OTHER SERVICE GROUPS, PAID OR NOT:**

**Will your organizations provide me with a Justice of the Peace (JP) to witness and accept my will according to common Australian law and plain language requirements?**

**As well as providing a venue for witness and storage of my will, according to Australian law and plain language requirements, would your organizations help to carry this will out for free if so asked, before or after I am gone?** Why not sign up as part of your normal public service to people who seek it in the public interest, as I do?

The NSW DWD claims on its website to be *'an advocacy organization pursuing a change in the law that will enhance choice at the end of life*. It seeks ***'legislation that enables competent adults, experiencing unrelievable suffering from a terminal or incurable illness, to receive medical assistance to end their life peacefully, at a time of their choosing'***.

Is this mission achieved? I bet it won't make a blind bit of difference to normal professional or political ruling practice for reasons in the attached discussion of background research for writing my will. Is this really Christian, let alone representative of atheists, or those of other than Christian faiths? You be judge.

I am a 75-year-old atheist whose father and mother had no religion and I want an assisted death when I choose. I am old enough to choose and I want good help. **Will either of your offices accordingly provide Justice of the Peace (JP services) and witness my will and help me to get other wishes met?**

My second top wish I hope can be met around Xmas 2022. Please help to set up a long meeting for me with Nixon Apple, who lives somewhere in Melbourne, to discuss further pursuit of regional research programs and related matters. He was recipient of Queens Birthday Hons. (2019) for services to superannuation and trade unions, before he was awarded national honours in 2020, mainly for sitting on Victorian and Commonwealth boards, on behalf of the ACTU and AMWU. He was my defacto for ten years before moving to Melbourne on Boxing Day. He cut off all knowledge of his whereabouts to me after quickly remarrying, as was his right. I have always wondered what has happened to him since, to advance my research.

What did Nixon learn since he left me and how might it affect any input by relevant parties to the **Jobs and Skills Summit**? What will Judith Neilson do next with her former hubby? Should I presume they communicate through their daughter, Beau? (Why would you give a girl a boy's name unless you were nasty and tricky?) See

related matter below and attached, on the State of Environment report and the mission of Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Environment and Water. Only God knows what she talks to her husband about but I guess he must believe her on key matters.

Jamie Parker writes in his letter (28.7.22), that unlike most politicians, but as a Greens MP, he has never taken corporate donations and never will. He thinks this means he *"can speak freely about the issues that local people raise rather than being a mouthpiece for political donors and corporate interests"*. As teal and independent candidates showed resoundingly in the last federal elections, by winning key seats mainly from old stale, male, Liberal interests, this Greens' view appears unnecessary and undesirable for serving the regional people; as distinct from serving those on whom they may depend to get their wishes met in their normal secret operations. Open judgment assists more honest growth. I want to see and talk to Nixon in the flesh to assess what the last quarter century of Australian growth has meant for him. Please help me establish this contact and I will happily report freely on its outcome. I trust I will not have to torture him to get him talking up close to me for a long time.

If clear and open regional direction is established and shared from the outset on the basis of good evidence, the Greens could surely do no wrong in attempts to pursue the goals derived from the Balmain electorate openly, as outlined earlier above. Under such guiding circumstances, denying the opportunities offered by *'political donors and corporate interests'*, appears electorally like shooting oneself in the foot. We all may be equal stakeholders in these efforts to serve the particular people. For example, I write to you as a Balmain constituent but not a member of the Greens. Money to serve the openly stated interests of the people may come from anywhere as long as the deployment is sufficiently transparent to be questioned on the basis of evidence about the particular place and persons within or relevant to its operations. Naturally the common goal is to be of service to the people first. (That's me here.)

Personally, I think us old people should be allowed and assisted by the state to die when we want, not be artificially kept alive against our will by the so-called 'caring professions'. We've done enough and should be able to go when we want, with state help if we want. Having watched the nature of population unrest on TV and read about it in newspapers, especially in Africa, Papua New Guinea or elsewhere around election times, I can also understand those who call for the return of the death penalty, rather than privileging violent prisoners with the only welfare state available to the poor outside the family.

Please help me, and wishing you all the best of British luck for the future, whether you appear in it or not. And particularly remember....

**WHY NOT GET RID OF POLITICIANS WHO VOTED AGAINST ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION? (I WOULD TRY MUCH MORE, WERE I LESS OLD AND FEEBLE)**

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**STEM AND PPE: WHAT IS LEARNED UNDER THE M IN 'STEM'? IS IT MORE TROUBLE AND COST THAN IT IS WORTH? DO WOMEN WHO HATE MATHEMATICS HAVE GOOD REASONS?**

I refer you to the regional policy and development discussion on the state of the Australian environment later below, hoping you will raise your related regional and state of the environment matters in this global context with Chinese and other trading partners.

Particularly as the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, is holding a national skills and jobs summit next month, surely teaching institutions and others should consider the role that mathematics learning and teaching does play, or should play, in relation to occupations and career paths in which science, technology or engineering knowledge and skills are ideally linked? Regional development and the State of Environment report are addressed later in this context.

***How good or bad for one's personal money and the environment is the M in STEM? How necessary is mathematics, and of what kind, to meet the key national need for jobs and career paths in the globally or locally linked economies of Australian states today and in future generations?***

***What jobs and careers in your regional area are open to those who specialized in mathematics and mathematical skills? Do we need them or others in Australia, for example? Why? How does any current mathematical teaching assist resolution of problems of climate change or its reduction? (I address this in regard to real estate agents, property managers and banking, with implications for construction industry matters attached.)***

In the 1980s, I was unaware of the useful concept grouping **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** for discussion of education for job and career aspirations and standards, whether for women or for men. I write as a traditional woman, whose mathematical thinking is unconfident, slow and suspicious of potential trickery. I tend to avoid complex mathematics and value stable, simple, personal or related written knowledge most.

It is only recently, in my political economist's understanding of Keynesian thought and the world, that I have begun to see the historical and global vitality of the related educational and career concept grouping, **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)** starting at Oxford University and in its later translation, to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, for example. Mathematics and mathematicians have clearly played a central role in the development of PPE before, after and during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars, for example. The men who built atomic bombs and those who naturally wanted to test them came from all over the world.

These Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) concept groupings have travelled the world with similarly feudal notions of standard setting. These teachings appear alive and thriving today in ways which support increasing disequilibrium in the historic feudal and Christian state manufacturing positions, rather than the reverse. My common knowledge and discussion of Cambridge inspired texts such as **Macroeconomic Principles** (2007) and the world today, is that such books deal in mathematical terms which no ordinary educated person can understand or use with confidence. These terms are also applied to theory which history has shown to be wrong for today. As Keynes observed, the markets can remain irrational much longer than you can remain solvent. He proved his financial point by leaving the upkeep of his widow to the kindness of friends, etc. However, mathematics and related IT interests appear to be driving the lot today as they have often done, thanks to continuation of normal feudal and manufacturing associations built for use in warfare states seeking to build up from more recent domestic collapse. This issue is important for all investment in the state of the environment.

See the discussion below and attached, mainly in relation to construction and property management on the ground, rather than in ideal Platonic terms in the head, or room, or computer or space. Also think of Sylvia Nasar's great historical book on mathematics, **A Beautiful Mind** (1998); or **Who Got Einstein's Office** (1987) and any biographies of Keynes or Iris Murdoch, for examples of how maths in PPE may be carried out, wondering at it, or not.

Maths has often been a mystery to me so great that I can't unpack it, with the exception of social statistics and the everyday kind of maths. I learned in school for my own transactions related to consumption and investment. (Do the terms **supply side** and **demand side** for economic discussions give wrong and confusing accounts based on the idea of economic 'laws' rather than their regional and political roots in production, consumption and investment?)

What kind of vocational maths should be studied to protect ourselves and our environments today instead of exploiting them in past norms now being rocket fuelled in IT systems to please their richer customers or themselves as usual? See more below and attached for your related advice or action.

Cheers Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Hi Jess

Thanks for your columns which I often find helpfully thoughtful. However, I found your article in the Sydney Morning Herald entitled **Things could be much worse** (SMH 15.11.22, p.21) confusing, because of course we now are **'doing pretty okay'**, (sic.) being among the richest, healthiest and best served groups of people in the world.

I have never doubted this and nor have you, I would have thought, as a Sydney University political economy and economics product with a middle-class Canberra background, including an interest in accountancy.

However, you appear to conclude that since the coronavirus related health care promotion began in 2020, life as we know it is now **'returning to a more normal state of affairs and one that is infinitely more desirable than the alternative'**.

Surely it is reasonable to assume that a **'more normal state'** is also worse for the environment? I ask this because of facing our strata plan AGM as a member of the strata committee, discussed later and attached.

**A stable state is not a normal bargaining state I would have thought. So, what comes next, ideally for all in these regions in regard to wage fixing and housing behaviour here and beyond?**

Are you content just to be among the rich and happy traders, thin or fat? Surely you never doubted you were, given your Canberra and Sydney University roots and networks?

It never crossed my mind to do so and so I wonder about your mental health. I recommend dropping the private health insurance as it might be messing with your head? How could you think it's good value for you?

After some discussion of recent historical events, including the government Jobkeeper subsidies to some employers and paid workers, you go on to make the following claim which is a total mystery to me:

*'In such a scenario, interest rates would have remained at historic near-zero percent lows, not only continuing to push sharemarket valuations to dangerous nose-bleed highs, but also pushing home ownership even further beyond the reach of younger generations.'*

In short, I am not clear about the actual nature of the scenario which you are glad did not happen, or why you think it matters if *'sharemarket valuations are pushed to dangerous nosebleed highs'*.

Why do we care about this, especially as women who need lower interest rates and better planned housing ownership and rental at the bottom end of labor markets and prices, not driving for the tops as usual?

Thanks for your occasionally mysterious work. At least it's different to the norm. Sometimes you seem as nuts as Ross Gittens, or is it me? See the related regional direction I've been pursuing below and attached. Anything you can tell me about your levies, etc. would be of great interest.



Cheers Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037 [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

Hi Sally

## **AGM 2022**

### **LEVIES AND OTHER MATTERS ON STRATA PLAN FOR ST JAMES COURT**

## **Re: 5.3 Levies (Next Period) 5.4 Levy Notices and 6. Overdue Levy Collection**

I put these questions through you as Treasurer:

I am a little confused about how levy expenses are dealt with and how much the levy is expected to rise in 2023 and the subsequent 2 years.

It is clear that the agency agreement with Whelans is expected to rise 3% per annum over 3 years. (This seems fairly common in line with current payment practice and I wouldn't vote against either.)

However, in our 2.0 Income and Expenditure statement I note a lot of items dealing with debt recovery costs and items such as Special Levy Expense \$16,315 or recurrent ATF services and fine Line remedial building costs.

**Are our levy payments up to date? Does the strata plan pay the costs of late levy payment or is it a cost to the individual owner?**

**How is the special levy of \$10,000 that each of us owners were expected to pay in 2022 being treated? Have we all paid, for example?**

**Re:**

**11. Building Evaluation; 14. Capital Works Forecast 15. Workplace Health and Safety Report; 16. Annual Fire Safety Statement (I vote against these I think.)**

These places at St James Court turn over ownership regularly and I have absolutely no reason that I can see to spend money on a building evaluation, unless forced by law as usual. It should not be hard to estimate their increase in value without a special evaluation.

In my view, we don't need a capital works forecast because the distinction between administrative and capital works fund matters is merely confusing to better understanding of what is going on here, which is primarily a struggle to do what needs to be done, as distinct from doing a lot of stuff shoved down our throats by outside forces.

I am inclined to vote against all the above items because the strata committee knows what needs to be done and has been trying to achieve it against the odds for years.

**For example, water damage has been the biggest danger here so far and we have moved against the odds to deal with it better than when there was no regular maintenance here.**

**I see no point in getting a building evaluation or capital works forecast unless forced by law as we are already struggling to complete the treatment of perimeter walls and foundations and related plumbing and treatments against water damage.**

The aim is also to improve the amenity of the building across its Rosebank Street frontage so that both sides of the building appear equally strongly improved. (No 18 landscaping and fence has been completed and doing the same for No. 11 has been a work in progress for years in spite of all our efforts on the strata plan to complete it. I've no idea how the perimeter walls behind 7-11 are progressing with related plumbing.)

On the strata committee we have long known that water damage is a big yearly cost which appears to have arisen in sudden and traumatic ways for many individuals in the past from:

Insufficient effective maintenance of plumbing on a regular basis to ensure shit doesn't suddenly come up any plug holes in laundries. (We now have good maintenance)

Insufficient effective maintenance of vegetation on a regular basis. (We now have a plan to ensure tree cover is kept while not being an undesirable danger or cost to the strata through blocked spita pipes on verandas, for example.)

Insufficient effective treatment of leaking roofs as soon as leaks appear (This is now treated properly, whereas in the past leaks were seldom fixed effectively.)

The need to prevent 'concrete cancer' when water enters garages or elsewhere, through better water proofing treatment. (This need has been recognised and is being treated).

Our painting of the building is now kept up to date on a regular basis and related concern about storing rubbish in garages or public places is dealt with more effectively.

In regard to other matters, the total replacement of all lighting with LED has now occurred across the complex. (Thanks very much Lili.)

Waste treatment has significantly improved and so has the amenity of the grounds as a result of green waste treatment at the back of the complex. The entrance to the complex beside No. 1 is now very beautiful instead of being the eyesore that it once was.

A lot has been achieved and I am most concerned that we will be paying for expenses that the construction industry wants to run up, while leaving us short of money for what needs to be done.

I deeply resent, for example, the Annual Fire Safety and Asbestos Removal recurring demands and have done so since the last asbestos removal effort, which as you know, I distrusted, in 2008.

I don't think we need a capital works forecast as much as a clear outline of what has been achieved in the past five years and what is still to go. You or Maureen or Lili are in the best position to do this, I guess.

I hate the distinction between administrative and capital works funding as I find it totally confusing. It encourages serendipitous outside intervention of use to the construction industry rather than doing what needs to be done on this block. I fear the future with the Building Code of Australia and the construction industry view of what seems to be a good idea to shove down everybody's neck wherever they can under the rubric of safety, preventing global warming, etc.

In case anybody is interested, I address related national, regional and cultural matters in the Secure Jobs Better Pay bill attached and in the related jobs and skills summit. These issues are currently being considered in the light of the new national Treasurer's budget.

Cheers Carol (No. 10) **PS I would like to remain on the strata committee during 2023 and as an owner I expect to do so please.**

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