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>Subject: Australia outlaws using Internet to incite suicide
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> CANBERRA (Reuters) - People who use the Internet to incite others to
>commit suicide or teach them how to kill themselves face fines of up to
>A\$550,000 (\$430,000) under tough new laws passed in Australia on Friday.
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>Using the Internet to counsel or incite others to commit suicide or to
>promote and provide instruction on ways to do it has been outlawed but
>the new laws were not designed to stifle debate about euthanasia,
>Justice Minister Chris Ellison said.
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>"These offences are designed to protect the young and the vulnerable,
>those at greatest risk of suicide, from people who use the Internet
>with destructive intent to counsel or incite others to kill
>themselves," Ellison said in a statement. Individuals convicted of such
>offences face a fine of up to A\$110,000, while corporations face a fine of up to
>A\$550,000.
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>Use of the Internet to organize suicide pacts emerged as a grim problem
>for Japan last year, with dozens of Japanese killing themselves in
>Internet-linked group suicides.
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>Helping someone to commit suicide is illegal in Australia but there has
>been a long-simmering debate about euthanasia.
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>Dr Philip Nitschke shot to fame in 1997 when he helped four people die
>in the Northern Territory, where the practice was briefly legal before
>the national government stepped in to overturn local laws.
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