

29 September 2021

Urgent - Join in Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW before 11 October 2021

The move to make Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legal will be introduced into the NSW Parliament in the week commencing 11 October 2021.

From the perspective of our Church, we must uphold the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. In doing so we are called to boldly stand for life and to oppose what our church calls 'the culture of death'.

What can you do?

As such, Bishop Mascord has asked me to encourage and support the faithful throughout the Diocese of Wollongong to urgently contact their local state MPs directly, and strongly encourage local politicians to oppose the proposed legislation and vote No. Please note, that our opponents, a small but well organised group, are working very hard to lobby local MPs around NSW to introduce assisted suicide. Without similar efforts from those who uphold the sacredness of life, it will be very difficult to stop this terrible bill from becoming law.

It is absolutely vital that your local state MP is engaged by voters like you, clearly explaining the reasons why they believe that assisted suicide must be opposed and voted down. There are many arguments emanating from our faith but also many good arguments from a secular perspective. I have outlined these below in summary form for your consideration and use.

Phone calls are by far the best means of communication. From the perspective of a politician, there is much more weight from a phone call or phone message than an email, particularly an email that is not personal in nature.

How can I help stop Euthanasia from becoming law in NSW?

Below I have listed the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all state MP's that are in our Diocesan boundaries – one is your local Member of Parliament. I have also included all members of the Legislative Council.

- ***Please phone your local MP.***
- **Please phone** as many members of **the Legislative Council** as you can.
- If the phone is not answered please ***leave a message.***
- ***I again stress that a phone call to your local member is the most impactful option.***
- If you instead wanted to write a personal emails, that will contribute less, but some weight to their understanding of public sentiment.
- Finally, if you can only spend a short amount of time in assisting in this issue, there is a proforma email that has been established by Hope Australia. Go to www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw Whilst this is a less impactful mode of communication than a call or personal email to your local MP, it still will be effective in communicating your viewpoint.

There are many good reasons listed below to oppose this bill. Please select one or two below that you feel comfortable to communicate to ***your local Member & Members of the Legislative Council – asking them to No.***

What might I say?

When phoning your State MP / MLA's– You may, after reading these talking points below, include a few selected points you feel most strongly about in your phone conversation or recorded message.

- Killing is not true compassion – and it should never be taken into our own hands.
- This bill - Assisted suicide - can be suggested by medical practitioners. That is terrible – making people feel like a burden
- Approval for assisted suicide can be as short as 5 business days. There is not enough time to even move to assess and intervene in what may be complex mental health issues – let alone for families to intervene and have dialogue with their loved one – or to figure out if any coercion is going on behind the scenes.
- Coercion going on behind the scenes is a reality in regions / states that have adopted assisted suicide
- Communication for the first and final request for assisted suicide can be done via telehealth. Not only is it a breach of the Federal Criminal code which states that it is an offence to use any form of electronic communication to publish, counsel or incite committing or attempting to commit suicide, but it is just so impersonal, removed, disconnected – themselves things that are so often at the heart of the desire to seek suicide as a solution
- In this proposed Bill – all Faith-based hospitals and nursing homes ***must allow*** all stages of the assisted suicide process on their premises for permanent residents. As a person of faith – how dare this legislation be forced on us – euthanasia and abortion are abhorrent to people of faith – who started these facilities. The notion of caring for the sick and vulnerable is a Christian Principal – how dare this bill look to legislate to 'force' people and faith based institutions in this way, and attempt to undermine the core reason for the development of hospitals by people of faith – the dignity of human life - long before governments did
- Faith-based hospitals must allow VAD navigators into hospitals to provide information to persons relating to voluntary assisted dying. Again, this is massive overreach and an attack on religious freedom
- It is ridiculous that a psychologist referral is not required to see if a person is suffering from mental illness. The referral is only mandatory to assess a person's capacity, pressure, or duress. This is outrageous, especially given the mental state of so many people post covid – it looks to provide a terrible permanent 'solution' to a desire that has often been shown to be linked to depression, loneliness and feeling like a burden to others – the solution is to address these things, not to normalise a suicide solution.
- Ultimately, the bill has detailed instructions to 'educate' or 're-educate' a generation of medical practitioners on how to take life instead preserving it. Many Doctors are scared to speak up about this tectonic plate shift, which changes the culture of the medical profession, and those that are speaking up are being ignored.

This is urgent – please don't delay!

Many thanks for your assistance in this regard. Please also pray that the politicians of NSW are able to hold out against this push to extend the reach of the culture of death. It has already been taken up in all other states and territories and without your support and action, politicians are unlikely to oppose this terrible, proposed bill.

I am happy for you to forward this communication to other friends and family members in order to urge them to oppose Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying in NSW.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to do some more reading, I would suggest the following:

1. HOPE Australia: Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide Website

Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide <https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/>

2. Media Article

The following link will take you to a recent article that appeared on the MercatorNet website <https://mercatornet.com/euthanasia-fundamentalists-sell-death-in-the-netherlands/73751/>. It is titled *Euthanasia fundamentalists sell death in the Netherlands* dated 29 July 2021.

3. Australian Care Alliance Website

<https://www.australiancarealliance.org.au/>. It contains valuable updates and information about overseas developments.

Sincerely,



Mr Jude Hennessy
Director Office of Renewal and Evangelisation

NSW Members of Parliament (Legislative Assembly) in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong – Please phone your local member

South Coast	Mrs Shelley Hancock MP (LIB)	Ph: 4421 0222 E: southcoast@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://nsw.liberal.org.au/State/Shelley-Hancock/Meet-Shelley
Kiama	Mr Gareth Ward MP (IND)	Ph: 4232 1082 E: kiama@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://www.garethwardmp.com.au/voluntary-assisted-dying (Including survey on this bill)
Wollondilly	Mr Nathaniel Smith MP (LIB)	Ph: 4683 2622 E: wollondilly@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://nsw.liberal.org.au/candidates/nathaniel-smith
Shellharbour	Ms Anna Watson MP (ALP)	Ph: 4297 3111 E: shellharbour@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://www.annawatson.com.au/
Wollongong	Mr Paul Scully MP (ALP)	Ph: 4226 5700 E: wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://paulscullymp.com.au/
Keira	Mr Ryan Park MP (ALP)	Ph: 4285 1588 E: keira@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://www.ryanpark.com.au/
Campbelltown	Mr Greg Warren MP (ALP)	Ph: 4625 3344 E: campbelltown@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://www.gregwarrenmp.com.au/
Camden	Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP (LIB)	Ph: 4655 3333 E: camden@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Macquarie Fields	Mr Anoulack Chanthivong MP (ALP)	Ph: 9618 2077 E: macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au Web: https://www.connectwithanoulack.com/

All NSW Members of the Legislative Council

Please contact as many members of the Legislative Council by phone that you can, particularly Liberal / National / Labor Party members.

Amato, Lou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLC (Legislative Council) / Liberal Party member 	Phone (02) 9230 2764 Fax (02) 9230 2699 lou.amato@parliament.nsw.gov.au
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadow Special Minister of State Shadow Minister for Roads Shadow Minister for Night Time Economy and Music Australian Labor Party member 	
<u>Harwin, Don</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLC (Legislative Council) Special Minister of State Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council Vice-President of the Executive Council Trustee of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund Liberal Party member 	<p>In his capacity as Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts:</p> <p>Phone 02 8574 7200 Contact the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts</p>
<u>Houssos, Courtney</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLC (Legislative Council) Shadow Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Temporary Chair of Committees Australian Labor Party member 	<p>Phone (02) 9230 2694 Fax (02) 9230 2677 courtney.houssos@parliament.nsw.gov.au</p>
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