



Diocese of Armidale

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YOUR SUPPORT FOR ALL HUMAN LIFE IS NEEDED

Dear Friends in Christ,

The NSW Parliament is to debate the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill in the coming days. The Bill would remove abortion from the Crimes Act and define it as a medical procedure in its own legislation. It would legalise abortion up to 22 weeks' gestation and, even up to birth, with the consent of two doctors.

Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual.

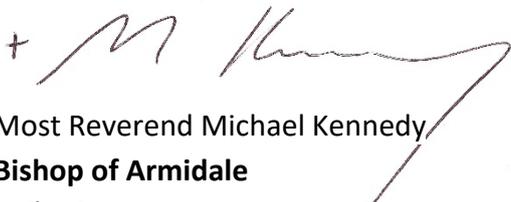
This Bill supports the position that some human beings do not deserve respect or should not be treated as *persons* and as such it denies the very idea of inherent human rights. Such a position undermines respect for the lives of many vulnerable people both before and after birth.

Our focus as a society should be supporting pregnant women who feel they have no choice other than to terminate their pregnancy. The Bill therefore forgets those pregnant mothers who find themselves in difficult situations and would prefer real help rather than being steered toward abortion. The Bill also forgets the medical professionals who would want to oppose such procedures on the grounds of conscience.

I have written to Adam Marshall MP, Kevin Anderson MP and Roy Butler MP who represent the electorates within the Diocese of Armidale. I urge you to join with me in expressing to these parliamentarians your opposition to the Bill and asking them to vote against it.

Please join with me in praying for pregnant mothers who are in challenging circumstances, for their unborn children, for the medical professionals who care for them, and for respectful political debate leading to common sense decisions.

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale
31st July, 2019