



Diocese of Armidale

Ph: (02) 6772 4971
Fax: (02) 5701 5140
Email: chancery@armidale.catholic.org.au

Catholic Chancery Office
3/131 Barney Street
PO Box 93
Armidale NSW 2350

28th September, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

RE: NSW ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA LEGISLATION

NSW Independent MP, Alex Greenwich is preparing to introduce his *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021* into the NSW parliament in October. Calling it “Voluntary Assisted Dying” does not change the nature of what it is: the deliberate killing of a human being. It is more important than ever that concerned citizens make their views and objections known to their local member of State Parliament. NSW is now the only State that has not legalised euthanasia.

The extension of human freedom to include the freedom to choose death is unprecedented until our own time and is a form of radical social experimentation. The same can be said of the involvement of doctors and health professionals in facilitating death rather than preserving life.

Of particular concern is the pressure placed on vulnerable elderly or those with disabilities or long-term medical issues to “choose” death, because they feel themselves to be a “burden” on others or that their lives have no value to their families or the broader society.

Debates on euthanasia often focus on the emotional aspects, but those who advocate for euthanasia are not the sole witnesses of such suffering. There is hardly a family unaffected by the suffering and death of loved ones. The answer is ensuring access to quality palliative care services and surrounding our loved one with support- physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This is a serious public policy issue, not just an emotional one.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we also bring to this issue our firm belief in the inherent dignity of every human being from conception to natural death; in the sovereignty of our loving God over life and death; and in the redemptive power of human suffering. Further information is available at the Hope Australia website: [Hope Australia \(no euthanasia.org.au\)](http://HopeAustralia.no euthanasia.org.au)

Please act today and take a few minutes to contact your local member of parliament. This is best done with a personal meeting or phone call followed up by a written letter. Your MP’s contact details are on the back of this letter. Please also take time to vote via the online poll some local members have on their website.

Thank you for your action in this important matter.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale

CONTACT DETAILS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THE DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

Northern Tablelands Electorate

Adam Marshall:

(02) 6772 5552

northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 77 Armidale NSW 2350

Tamworth Electorate

Kevin Anderson:

(02) 6766 1422

tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 1740 Tamworth NSW 2340

Barwon Electorate

Roy Butler:

(02) 6792 1422

barwon@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Suite 1 Ground Floor 60 Maitland Street Narrabri NSW 2390