



SENATOR THE HON JAMES MCGRATH
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC17-095636

Ms Anne Hywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia General Synod
Suite 4, Level 5, 189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hywood

Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2017 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, providing information on the 17th Session of the General Synod's resolution on assisted dying. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Government recognises that members of the community have strong views about dying with dignity, compassion and with minimal pain. The heartfelt debate prior to the passage by the Victorian Parliament of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 reflects this diversity of opinion.

The underlying principle of the Commonwealth Government's investment in health services is quality of life, and this includes during end of life care. The Government believes that people should have access to quality palliative care and relief from pain and suffering, and that, where possible, people should be able to choose the extent of active medical treatment they receive.

While we appreciate the diversity of views on the issue, the Government notes that euthanasia has traditionally been a matter for state parliaments. We do not propose to introduce legislation to repeal the *Commonwealth Euthanasia Laws Act 1997*.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. McGrath'.

JAMES MCGRATH

05 / 01 / 2018