



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Ref: A2274309

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

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Dear Ms Hywood,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 September 2017 in relation to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017. I have noted the resolution of the General Synod.

I appreciate the strength and honesty of the Synod's views on this deeply personal issue.

Everyone in our community, especially those who have lost a loved one, can agree that everything possible should be done to manage and prevent any pain and suffering experienced in the final stages of life.

I greatly respect that people in our community have passionate but different views on how that can be best achieved.

I have taken the time to hear from many people and groups on this issue and have considered their stories and experiences.

As I have stated publicly, I cannot support the Bill in its current form, due primarily to concerns I have in relation to potential unintended consequences that could arise if the Bill was passed and implemented.

Please understand that this is my personal view.

In recognition of the deeply personal nature of this issue, I have made it clear that when the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 is considered by the Parliament, Government members will be free to exercise a conscience vote on the Bill and vote according to their own personal views.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to bring the Synod's views about this important issue to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier