

PETITION

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

This Petition of citizens of New South Wales states our strong opposition to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017* that is expected to be introduced into the New South Wales Parliament sometime during the second half of 2017.

Assisted suicide involves helping an individual to take their own life. Euthanasia involves the conscious and deliberate killing of another human being. The law in this state has traditionally upheld respect for human life. The passing of a law which codifies and legalises assisted suicide and euthanasia would fundamentally undermine that respect and radically change the nature of the doctor-patient relationship.

We are particularly concerned that this bill or similar legislation poses a particular danger to the frail, aged, sick, mentally impaired, vulnerable and disabled in our state. We do not believe that such legislation can create and enforce safeguards. It is simply not possible to provide guarantees against potential abuse and exploitation of such laws as demonstrated in jurisdictions where assisted suicide and euthanasia have already been legalised.

We are also concerned that such laws if they are passed will be amended over time to expand their access and availability beyond what was originally provided for. This opening up or liberalising the application of assisted suicide and euthanasia laws over time has been a feature of a number of overseas jurisdictions where such laws operate.

Every citizen of this state should have access to the best possible care at the end of their life. Palliative care is the primary means through which such care is delivered. Ongoing work must continue to ensure that high quality palliative care is available right across the state, no matter where a person lives.

The undersigned petitioners therefore respectfully request that the Legislative Council unanimously oppose the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017* or similar proposed legislation when it comes before the House to be voted on.

Full Name	Full Address	Email	Signature

