



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP

Premier of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

22 November 2021

Dear Premier

Re the Assisted Dying Bill 2021

I would like to put on the record my community's strong objections to the Assisted Dying Bill 2021.

We object to the taking of life in cases of terminal illness for numerous reasons amongst which:

1 – There are cases throughout history where “terminally ill” persons managed to recover from their “terminal illnesses”.

2 – Any choice that we may have into coming into worldly life is not a choice that is made in this world. For the same reason, the taking of life on grounds of “terminal illness” should not be a choice made in this world.

3 – We do not deny that some “terminal” illnesses are accompanied by excruciating “unbearable” pain. We do acknowledge also that pain can be physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual and that some non-physical pain can be far more debilitating than physical pain. Enduring the non-physical pain brings us growth, at the same time, enduring the physical pain can help create the right remedy that can save not only the life of the “terminally ill” person but others who may contract the same illness.



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4 – “Assisting” in the death of those who wish for death also places a burden on those who wish to remain alive, as articulated by [Richard Doerflinger, MA](#), Public Policy Fellow, Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame. He said: “[C]ampaigning to end certain people’s lives doesn’t end suffering – it passes on the suffering to other similar people, who now have to fear they are the next people in line to be seen as having worthless lives. ... Moreover, societies that authorize suicide as a ‘choice’ for some people soon end up placing pressure on them to ‘do the right thing’ and kill themselves... Seeing suicide as a solution for some illnesses can only undermine the willingness of doctors and society to learn how to show real compassion and address patients’ pain and other problems. In states that have legalized assisted suicide, in fact, most patients request the lethal drugs not due to pain (or even fear of future pain), but due to concerns like ‘loss of dignity’ and ‘becoming a burden on others’ – attitudes that these laws encourage. The solution is to care for people in ways that assure them that they have dignity and it is a privilege, not a burden, to care for them as long as they live.”

5 – From a faith perspective – lives are in the hand of God; God alone decides when a person’s life will end irrespective of what efforts people make to end that life. Based on this doctrine, when we pass such legislation all we are doing is committing to a paradigm shift on the value of human life, a shift that will diminish our very humanity and influence the views of emerging generations on the value of life. For those who don’t believe in God, you can think of the natural design or the natural order in life and relate to the many instances in the lives of each of us where we feel saved from catastrophe by a “circumstance”.

Such a Bill is an irony in the making. The International community has over the past two years expended trillions of dollars to save lives and to force a vaccine mandate in order to save these lives. To turn around and validate “Assisted Dying” completely undermines our global COVID response.

In furtherance of point 3 above, we should consider that there are other causes of “intolerable” pain and suffering, these include famines, drug addiction, various forms of enslavement, extreme poverty, plagues and epidemics. These can more than a “terminal illness” affect the quality and dignity of life and can conflict people between survival and suicidal tendencies. By extension, the arguments in this Bill could, over the passage of time,

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*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



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be extended to all these pains.

NSW, for consistently rejecting such laws in the past, remains the state that values life. This is more reason to reinforce our moral and ethical responsibilities to the preservation of life. We as a society fund many programs to stop suicide. It would be completely wrong to pass a law that not only sanctions suicide but allows others to assist someone who wishes to destroy their own life.

For these and many other reasons, we urge NSW Government and the Standing Committee on Law and Justice to reject Assisted Dying Bill 2021.

Kind regards,

Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC

Cc NSW Leader of the Opposition
The standing committee on Law and Justice

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