



National Secular Lobby

Advancing Australia's Secular Agenda

8 October 2021

Dear Minister,

We write on behalf of the National Secular Lobby to ask for your support on the upcoming NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

As evidenced by the passing of similar legislation in other states around Australia, Voluntary Assisted Dying is an idea whose time has well and truly arrived.

The people of New South Wales are universally in favour of VAD. [There is not a single electorate in which there is not a good majority of people supportive of these laws.](#)

It is also now a tried and proven process in practice, with no evidence of the “slippery slopes” touted by opponents. [The legislation has been proven to operate as intended in Victoria,](#) with strict safeguards protecting vulnerable people.

Despite opposition by many religious leaders, the majority of religious people are also in favour of these laws. And the right of conscientious objection by doctors – on religious or non-religious grounds – is respected.

The argument is often made that VAD laws seek to diminish or replace palliative care programs, but this is not the case. VAD is an extension of end-of-life care and can help cover the 4% of cases (according to Palliative Care Australia; 5-10% according to allied individuals and groups) in which traditional care is no longer effective.

Contrary to the disingenuous objections put forward by some opponents, VAD does not result in any “extra deaths”. The people who make use of the VAD process are already dying; VAD simply reinstates their agency over their own lives, allowing them to curtail their suffering and choose the time, place and manner of their death.

Why should they not have this right?

With VAD laws now passed in every other Australian state, we believe the people of NSW deserve the same choices.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not a reason to delay – three states have passed or progressed VAD laws in the last 18 months.

Please support the right of the people NSW to self-determination and vote YES on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Yours sincerely,

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