

Questions for consideration

The following are questions that you, your faith group or your congregation might like to use to guide your discussion of this issue:

- Should the Synod take a position on the proposed laws the Victorian Government plans to introduce on voluntary assisted dying/suicide? If so, what should that position be?
- If the laws are passed through the Parliament, should the Synod allow people to end their lives in Synod facilities, such as aged care facilities, if such action by the person complies with the requirements of the laws?
- If the laws are passed through the Parliament, should people ultimately employed by a Synod body be permitted to assist or facilitate people using the laws to end their lives while they are employed by the Synod?

Dear Synod,

In regards to question 1. I think that the Church needs to except the proposed Assisted Dying Law. The Law clearly states that it is a voluntary and an individual decision on behalf of the patient, Doctors and Nurses. If you cannot agree then the Church needs to stay out of what would be parliamentary law. You need to remember that **“Assisted Dying would not result in more people Dying but less people suffering.”**

In regards to question 2. Synod definitely needs to allow people to end their lives in Synod facilities. To make a blanket decision on behalf of so many people would be wrong on so many levels. This is an individual choice. To not allow individuals to make that choice in your medical facility would result in people being forced to take loved ones out of medical care so that they can access the Assisted Dying Law. This would result in people who are terminally ill and already suffering uncontrollable pain into situations that are not suitable for them and do not have adequate care. I predict that people who are forced to do this would end up dying a terrible death before the paper work could be completed. This would be something that The Uniting Church would not be able to come back from. We would get a terrible reputation which you would not be able to undo.

In regards to question 3. To not permit Doctors, Nurses and Carers to make their own decisions without judgment or threat of being unemployed would be wrong and ultimately be seen as bullying tactics. The assisted Dying Law is a well thought out law with a very strict criteria and the Church needs to respect not just the law but people’s decisions. We will all have to answer to God one day and I am very confident that God will tell me that I did the right thing. What do you think that God will tell you?

Please refer additional documentation in regards to My story and Why I feel so strong about this.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Wragg.

St Stephens Uniting Church member Wodonga Vic.



To Daniel
Andrews.docx

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