NEW SOUTH WALES

12 NOVEMBER 2025

VAD Faith Leaders Joint Statement

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

12 November, 2025

Will your conscience protect our conscience?

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales,

We, the undersigned, urge the NSW Upper House to vote in favour of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Amendment (Residential Facilities) Bill 2025* (the Bill), which extends the right of faith-based aged care providers to decline assisted suicide on their premises. ***We ask you to use your conscience vote to protect the conscience of our faith communities.***

This Bill provides fair and reasonable protection, ensuring that faith-based aged care providers, their staff, and residents retain the freedom to choose care options that reflect their beliefs and values. It safeguards the autonomy of individuals and communities to live out their faith within care environments that honour life and prioritise compassionate care at the end of life.

Supporting this Bill is a vital step in protecting religious freedom and the rights of faith communities in NSW. It demonstrates understanding and respect for the deeply held convictions of people of faith.

The legislation does not limit access to assisted suicide

The Bill does not restrict access to voluntary assisted dying (VAD) for those who choose it, nor does it impose any belief system on others. Rather, it preserves freedom of conscience and association, allowing residents, staff, and providers to act in accordance with their beliefs without compromising their moral integrity.

The Bill does not prevent residents from accessing information about VAD on the premises. It simply ensures providers are not compelled to facilitate hastening death through VAD in their facility

The intent of this Bill is to achieve a respectful balance: recognising the choice of those who wish to end their life through VAD, while upholding the dignity and ethos of communities who cannot, in good conscience, facilitate or be associated with the intentional hastening of death.

Recognise choice for all

Offering true choice and valuing diversity in NSW includes allowing space for people who do not wish to live their final days in a place where VAD is provided and giving options to families who prioritise authentic faith-based care for their loved ones. We should seek a community that welcomes faith; one that values inclusion, freedom, and respect for all.

The guiding principles of **choice and dignity** must extend to faith-based environments. Residents and providers should not be forced to act against conscience; they, too, deserve dignity and respect in the exercise of their faith.

We are simply asking that our community's conscience be protected and that our beliefs be respected.

Please, use your conscience vote to support our faith communities and uphold genuine freedom of belief in NSW.

Sincerely,

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Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Rev Dr Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries
NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

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Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
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Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
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Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Most Rev Gregory Homeming OCD
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