



Diocese of Armidale

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YOUR SUPPORT FOR ALL HUMAN LIFE IS NEEDED

Dear Friends in Christ,

The NSW Parliament is to debate the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill in the coming days. The Bill would remove abortion from the Crimes Act and define it as a medical procedure in its own legislation. It would legalise abortion up to 22 weeks' gestation and, even up to birth, with the consent of two doctors.

Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual.

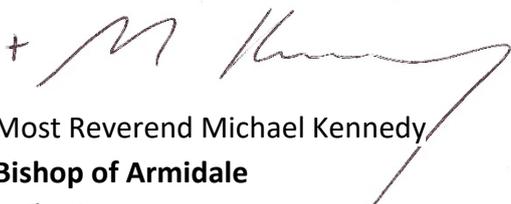
This Bill supports the position that some human beings do not deserve respect or should not be treated as *persons* and as such it denies the very idea of inherent human rights. Such a position undermines respect for the lives of many vulnerable people both before and after birth.

Our focus as a society should be supporting pregnant women who feel they have no choice other than to terminate their pregnancy. The Bill therefore forgets those pregnant mothers who find themselves in difficult situations and would prefer real help rather than being steered toward abortion. The Bill also forgets the medical professionals who would want to oppose such procedures on the grounds of conscience.

I have written to Adam Marshall MP, Kevin Anderson MP and Roy Butler MP who represent the electorates within the Diocese of Armidale. I urge you to join with me in expressing to these parliamentarians your opposition to the Bill and asking them to vote against it. I have provided their contact details with some suggested comments on the accompanying information sheet.

Please join with me in praying for pregnant mothers who are in challenging circumstances, for their unborn children, for the medical professionals who care for them, and for respectful political debate leading to common sense decisions.

Yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Armidale

31st July, 2019

PLEASE URGENTLY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEMBER

Please contact your NSW State Member of Parliament and ask them to vote against this Bill. Your local member's details are listed below

Simply contact, **preferably by phone**, the electorate office during business hours and let them know that you are from the local area, and would like to ask the Member to vote against the abortion bill.

Some reasons you can provide for asking them to vote against the Bill include:

- It would allow abortion up until birth with the approval of two doctors, for any reason.
- It does nothing to provide alternatives for women who feel distressed at being pregnant and feel they have 'no other option.'
- It provides no protection for women experiencing violence (According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 48 per cent of women who report violence from a former partner were abused during pregnancy, as are 18 per cent of women who report violence from a current partner.)
- It overrides the conscience of doctors and other medical professionals or institutions, requiring them to disclose their objection and refer to another doctor or institution who will perform the abortion.
- It will leave unborn children and distressed pregnant women even more at risk.
- There has been no community consultation on the Bill.
- Voters have been denied the opportunity to have their voices heard in this debate.

Catholics believe that women and babies deserve better than abortion.

If you know a woman experiencing difficulty because of an unexpected pregnancy, please know that there is help available. The Church, through its many agencies, can provide support to women who feel they have no choice available to them other than abortion.

Thank you for your willingness to help in building a culture of life in NSW!

CONTACT DETAILS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THE DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

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