

Subject: Medical community overwhelmingly against euthanasia

Dear [Name]

Please vote against the *Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (Bill)* which seeks to make it possible for the legalisation of both euthanasia and assisted suicide in Northern Territory, and – if amendments are made as predicted – in the Australian Capital Territory.

It is not clear to me why the federal parliament would be keen to open the door to euthanasia and assisted suicide when the medical community is so overwhelmingly against it.

The Australian Medical Association has been consistent in its opposition to the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The AMA's official position is that 'doctors should not be involved in interventions that have as their primary intention the ending of a person's life.'

The World Medical Association is even stronger against it. The WMA Statement of Physician-Assisted Suicide reads: "Physicians-assisted suicide, like euthanasia, is unethical and must be condemned by the medical profession."

Across the world, 107 of the World Medical Association's 109 constituent National Medical Associations oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Those who most closely deal with the sick and dying reject the idea that parliaments would allow them and their peers to kill patients instead of heal them.

In 2017, 105 Australian palliative care specialists signed an open letter, pleading with the Victorian government to not legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Instead, Australia's palliative carers asked for adequate resources to help them to care for those at the end-of life. And they rejected the active and deliberate undermining of their work in an effort to push these laws through.

Please listen to our medical professionals and vote 'no.'

Thank you.