



The Rev. The Hon. Fred Nile MLC ED., L.Th.,

Member of the Legislative Council
Deputy Chair, Privileges Committee
Parliamentary Leader, Christian Democratic Party
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9230 2478 Facsimile: (02) 9230 2098
Email: f.nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au



MEDIA RELEASE
DEATH CREEP OVER AUSTRALIA
For immediate circulation

There is a concern that safeguards have been stripped out of proposed euthanasia legislation throughout Australia. The chair of the Australian Medical Association, Chris Moye has expressed serious concern about the possibility of “slippage” in the proposed Western Australian and Queensland laws. In a report by Jamie Walker of *The Australian* (1 September 2019) the push to legalise euthanasia was criticized as hasty and rash: “the scope of assisted-dying law is being expended when the ink is barely dry on the prototype law, gainsaying any realistic assessment.”

Rev. Hon. Fred Nile MLC adds: “*the euthanasia laws in Victoria have been operating for far too short a time for any real information to be known about their effect, yet other states are busy trying to rush their own legislation through.*” He adds: “*the laws themselves were controversial in the first place, so what accounts for this impatience on the part of other states to push through similar legislation without the benefit of studying how the Victorian laws are operating?*”

In contrast to the Victorian law, the proposed legislation in Western Australia allows doctors to instigate a discussion with a patient about voluntary assisted suicide. The Victorian provisions require one of the doctors who will assess a patient’s eligibility to be a specialist is waived in the proposed WA law, and so too is the need for a government permit to dispense the lethal substance used in the euthanasia. Moreover, the WA law will allow a doctor to help the patient do what is necessary to take their own lives. Similar provisions exist in the proposed Queensland law, which also has “no mandated time horizon” for a patient’s eligibility.

“*These bills illustrate a death creep that is inundating the nation. First it’s the rushed abortion laws in NSW, and now euthanasia in other states. Why are state parliaments, mostly ALP governments, so hell-bent on promoting death instead of supporting people in need?*” – Fred Nile MLC.

END

Media inquiries:

Rev. Hon. Fred Nile MLC (02) 9230 2478

4 September 2019