



THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

23 October 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You are probably aware that on 18 October the Queensland Premier announced that she would rush euthanasia legislation into parliament in February 2021 despite previously committing to draft legislation being prepared by the Queensland Law Reform Commission by 1 March 2021.

The Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane Phillip Aspinall and I made a joint statement responding to the unexpected and unexplained announcement (see attached).

It is deeply disappointing that a matter as vital as life and death has been thrust into the fray of an election campaign and so heavily politicised. It is also disappointing that legislation will be rushed into a parliament that will comprise new members who have not had the opportunity to ponder the issue properly before being asked to vote on it. Disturbingly, as admitted by the Parliamentary Health Committee which conducted the inquiry into voluntary assisted dying, there has been very little, if any, consultation with one of the more vulnerable sectors of our community, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Reluctantly, then, we find ourselves in a position where we have to enter the fray.

There is only one more Sunday before most Queenslanders go to the polls I urge you to reinforce to your parishioners on the weekend of 24-25 October your message on voluntary assisted dying and urge them to think carefully about the matter before they cast their vote.

The resources provided to you for the recent *Dying Peacefully – No Euthanasia Sunday* (11 October) can guide you for your homily, particularly the pastoral letter. They can be found here - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/dying-peacefully/#resources>

As always in the Lord,

Archbishop of Brisbane

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

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