ARCHBISHOP PHILIP FREIER

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRIMATE

[Assisted dying law cause for lament](https://www.melbournearchbishop.org.au/press/assisted-dying-law-cause-for-lament/)

23 Nov 2017

*Statement by Melbourne Anglican Archbishop Philip Freier*

The passing of assisted dying legislation in Victoria’s upper house is certainly a historic day, but not one I can celebrate. For Christians and others who regard human life as having absolute value, this is a dangerous and disturbing piece of legislation, though I acknowledge that proponents of the assisted dying legislation are sincere.

It represents a momentous social shift, with many doctors concerned about what it means for their profession and their duty to preserve life.

I have written many times about the detailed reasons for my objections. They are recorded, for example, in the joint letter to the Premier I signed with six other Victorian bishops in late July. The letter can be seen here: <https://www.melbournearchbishop.org.au/news/bishops-write-to-premier/>

I hope and trust that the Act will be accompanied by a greater emphasis on palliative care, and much improved funding.

**Comments**