



Monday 14 April, 2025

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier of Victoria
Member for Bendigo East
PO Box 399
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Dear Premier,

Our warm and prayerful greetings to you.

We are writing to share a joint submission we recently made as leaders of Victoria's diverse faith communities to the Victorian Department of Health (please see enclosed). The submission was made in response to proposed changes to Victoria's *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 (VAD Act)* provided by the department.

We hold serious concerns that the proposed changes would weaken protections for vulnerable patients and for hard-working health practitioners who conscientiously object to VAD.

We urge you to not bring before the Parliament any amendments to the VAD Act that weaken protections for vulnerable patients and oppose any attempts to undermine Victorian health practitioners' rights to conscientiously object.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you.

Please know that we pray for you and your families and all who serve the community in public office.

Yours sincerely,

Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Sheikh Muhammad Nawas Saleem

Public Officer/Secretary, Board of Imams Victoria

His Grace Bishop Kyriakos of Melbourne

His Grace Bishop Evmenios of Chora

Shri Makarand Bhagwat

President, Hindu Council of Australia (VIC)

Jasbir Singh Suropada

Chairperson, Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria

Ramandeep Singh Arneja

Secretary, Victorian Sikh Gurduaras Council

His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSsR

Eparch, Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

Most Reverend John Panamthottathil CMI

Eparch, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

Reverend Monsignor Paul Mingana

Episcopal Vicar of Melbourne, St Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Catholic Diocese of Australia & New Zealand

Very Reverend Daniel Ghabrial

Vicar General, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Melbourne

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Takchi EV OAM

Episcopal Vicar for Interstate Parishes, Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania