NSW Petition Against Euthanasia: Speech for Catholic Churches Thank you Father ……………….. Good morning/evening.

My name is ………………………… (and I am a parishioner here at ………….. church) and I am here to speak to you briefly, in regards to a euthanasia bill that will shortly be before the NSW parliament.

 On Thursday 14th September, we expect Trevor Khan MLC to introduce his 'Voluntary Assisted Dying' Bill to the New South Wales Parliament. If passed, this would allow people with a terminal illness to be given the means to kill themselves or to be killed by a medical practitioner.

Our modern society recognises that suicide is a tragedy that ought to be prevented. This is why we expect to see the government focus on mental health awareness. But this euthanasia bill directly contradicts these efforts. Instead, it encourages suicide as a choice.

We all want to relieve suffering. We all agree that no-one should have to choose between a quick death now and a painful death later. But there are better ways of making sure that everyone has good medical treatment and pain relief. Euthanasia is not the same as palliative care. For example, giving someone pain relief that may shorten their life is not euthanasia. Euthanasia is the direct and intentional killing of a person.

Suicide is a tragedy, that has affected too many of us. Euthanasia eliminates suffering by eliminating those who aresuffering. We want to build a community that affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

Furthermore, legalising euthanasia sends out a dangerous message to vulnerable people - the elderly and people with disabilities or terminal illnesses. It tells them that they are a burden, and may increase the risk of abuse and exploitation.

This is why we need your help. We will be standing/have a table set up outside the church with a petition for you to sign. The petition respectfully asks that the Legislative Council unanimously oppose the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 when it comes before the House to be voted on.

It will only take a moment to sign but has the potential to have a huge impact on the future of NSW, particularly the elderly, the sick and the vulnerable in our society. You may remember that back in May we ran a similar petition in churches against an abortion bill that would have allowed abortion up until birth for any reason.

Thanks to your efforts, we obtained 56,559 signatures against that bill and it was voted down in Parliament shortly after. Let’s do this again. Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting you outside. God bless.