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## **STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN REGARDING A.C.T. LEGISLATION ON EUTHANASIA (VAD)**

The legislation at present in the A.C.T. Assembly is based on a MISTAKEN COMPASSION. Compassion/love never kills but stays alongside the terminally ill sufferer. By closeness and tenderness, we accompany those who struggle with their finiteness and care for them.

The ascendancy of narratives based on euthanasia generate despair and a complete lack of genuine hope and accompaniment of our beloved dying.

Genuine Palliative care is the best and most compassionate response to the dying. It is to be uppermost in our considerations. It is to be better resourced and widely available, especially for those in rural areas.

More recent discussions on extending Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), through the use of Power of Attorney, is a most troubling development. It crosses the line of legislation aimed at the terminally ill and is unambiguously aimed, as a form of State sanctioned suicide, at those who are not terminally ill.

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**THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN**

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