



A joint submission of

Little Company of Mary Health Care

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Catholic Health Australia

to the

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Health, Community, and Social Services

Inquiry into Calvary Public Hospital Options

One in ten of all people being cared for on any given day in Australia are receiving their care within a Catholic hospital. In Canberra, the proportion of people receiving care from a Catholic service is far higher, with the Calvary Public Hospital being one of only two public health services providing for the hospital needs of both Canberra residents and residents of the surrounding regions.

Calvary Public Hospital was established by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary three decades ago on an invitation of Government. Over those three decades, the hospital has become an integral part of the Canberra community as both the Government and the hospital owners hoped it would.

Calvary Public Hospital is available to all who seek access to its range of services. This was the purpose for which it was established, and this is the purpose for which it should continue for decades to come.

In recent times, there has been both debate and uncertainty about the future of Calvary Public Hospital, and the private services that are also provided by Little Company of Mary Healthcare at the Bruce Campus. Through this submission, and through this Inquiry, the owners of the services operated from the Calvary Bruce Campus, Little Company of Mary Health Care, together with the representatives of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and the members of Catholic Health Australia, provide their commitment and ongoing support for the continuation and expansion of both public and private health care services at Bruce Campus for many years to come.

The specific terms of reference of the inquiry focus on four options for the future of Calvary Public Hospital. The detailed submission of Little Company of Mary Healthcare addresses these matters. However, in response to these four options, we collectively provide the following responses:

In response to Option 1 that Little Company of Mary Health Care retain their existing lease and move to activity based funding

We endorse this first proposal, and offer our assistance to seeing this outcome achieved.

In response to Option 2 that the network agreement in its current form be adopted

We do not endorse this proposal, and to do so would appear inconsistent with current ownership and operational agreements that related to services provided at the Bruce Campus. We would however support the development of a new network agreement struck on mutually agreeable terms to both the Government and Little Company of Mary Health Care.

In response to Option 3 that the Government assist Little Company of Mary Health Care to develop of a new public good private hospital

We endorse this proposal, and confirm a willingness to support such an initiative on the assumption that an acute public hospital operates on the site.

In response to Option 4 that a new hospital be built in Canberra's North

We see no health planning evidence that would support the establishment of such a new hospital, and believe that to create such a hospital in circumstances for which there is no health planning evidence would cause the creation of a less efficient health care system in Canberra.

Collectively, we look forward to the public uncertainty about the future of Calvary Public Hospital being resolved. Providing certainty for the patients of Calvary, the staff of Calvary, and the residents of Canberra and beyond, must be a key focus of the outcomes of this Inquiry.

We are unified in the certainty of our position that the best interests of the health of all Canberra residents can be most efficiently achieved by sustaining and growing the Calvary Public and Private hospital services that Little Company of Mary Health Care has been proud to provide from the Bruce for more than thirty one years.

Yours sincerely



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+ Mark Coleridge
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