

Dr Andrew Gordon, MBBS, BMedSci, FRACP, FRCPA.
Consultant Physician in General Medicine
Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases
Microbiologist

Provider No 0311346H
Prescriber No 481543

Suite 19, upper level, top NE cnr,
John James Medical Centre,
175 Strickland Crescent,
DEAKIN, ACT, 2600.

Telephone 61 (0)2 6282 7333
Mobile 61 (0)407 008 512
Home 61 (0)2 62 888 450
Facsimile 61 (0)2 6282 7575

Ref RHD / Calvary Hospital concern RHD / Calvary enquiry 20101115

Dictated 16 November 2010
Typed 16 November 2010
Edited 16 November 2010
Printed 16 November 2010

- The Secretary,
Parliamentary Enquiry into the **Future of Calvary Hospital**,
c/- ACT Parliament House,
London Circuit,
CANBERRA CITY, ACT., 2600.

Telephone
Facsimile



-Dear Sir / Madam,

Submission to the enquiry into the future of Calvary Hospital. 20101116.

Introduction.

1. I am writing in relation to the enquiry about to be held related to the future of Calvary Hospital. These are my preliminary notes. Because I am about to be away from Canberra the notes are brief and not as detailed as I should have dictated, even so these are my comments.

2. I do not have immediate access to the advertisement so I have done the best that I can. If I find the advertisement I intend to make a further submission in a more correct format.

Detail.

3. I think the Calvary Hospital should be kept as a **public** hospital in its present location. It may need a different name.

4. At present the Hospital has good staff who care for the patients well. The work load is high, very high, as is the commitment of the staff who directly care for the patients.

5. The bed (staffed) numbers are inadequate.

6. The location is superb with respect to major "cross-roads" north to south, and east to west hence easy access for patients from North and South Canberra and from further afield.

7. It is important that one looks at the demographics with respect to the Hospital and the growth of Canberra.

8. It is important to keep the whole of the Calvary Public Hospital grounds, complete, with adequate provision for extra buildings and extra parking in particular multi-storey car parking for the Calvary patients and staff as well as visitors,, preferably, just before, they are required with respect to;

- a. the increasing population of the northern suburbs of Canberra,
- b. the increasing proportion of elderly patients with complex multiple medical problems,
- c. the greater expectations of the population,

- d. the improvements in technology available, both diagnostically as well as therapeutically,

Submission to the Local member of ACT Parliament.

9. I wrote to the local member of Parliament some time ago about the future of Calvary Hospital so I have reprinted the copy of my submission and some extra notes and sent them with this letter because I think that these documents, see below, will help with your enquiry.

See my letters;

- a. RHD / Member of Parliament RHD / ACT MP / Ownership Calvary Hospital
20100703 ACT revised
- b. RHD / Member of Parliament RHD / ACT MP / Ownership Calvary Hospital.

Extra comments related to the "Enquiry" itself.

10. I think that not enough time has been allocated for the enquiry and for the receipt of comments. I recommend another month or so and further seeking of submissions.

11. I recommend that you really ought to arrange some newspaper publicity and make it obvious that the people / citizens / potential patients of North Canberra really need to think about the future of their medical care in terms of total care. They must say what they think and what they want.

12. I think that you ought to write very specifically to some of my medical colleague, independent of this letter, and seek their opinions preferably based on fact e.g.;

- a. what is the expected increase in;
 - i. population,
 - ii. Emergency Department attendances
 - iii. admissions,
- b. how many General Physicians are needed per 100,000 of the population. I think that there is a shortage,
- c. how many orthopaedic surgeons are needed per 100,000 of the population. I am told that there is a shortage,
- d. how many General Surgeons are needed per 100,000 of the population.. I think that there is a shortage,
- e. should there be a magnetic resonance scanner at Calvary Hospital (there are two, 2, at Canberra) and three, 3, in private in Deakin, none in North Canberra. I think that there should be a MR scanner at Calvary Hospital,

13. It is important that you obtain submissions from physicians and surgeons and indeed all specialities.

14. You ought to talk to the (north side) General Practitioners about what they need and what they think that their patients need from / at Calvary Hospital

Improvements needed at Calvary Hospital.

Improvements needed at Calvary Hospital.

Improvements needed at Calvary Hospital.

15. There are some other aspects of the Calvary Hospital care which need to be improved. I have listed a few, only a few, example in the following paragraphs, be wary of duplication;

- a. MR scanner,
- b. more emergency surgery,
- c. better staffing.
- d. lower bed occupancy, say 85 - 90 % rather than what seems to be about 102%.
- e. a better co-operative arrangement with The Canberra Hospital so that the medical care in the whole of the ACT is simplified,
- f. better dining room, especially for the medical staff,
- g. better junior doctor facilities, especially privacy,
- h. review of buildings and maintenance.

16. Part of the immediate solution is to ensure that there are sufficient staffed beds including some in reserve every day of the week, all hours of the day to ensure provision for unexpected increases.

Co-operative ventures.

17. I know that there is another enquiry on related to a Health Care Network but the reality is that at present we need to ensure that the Canberra system, the Calvary system and then the Queanbeyan system because of geography work to produce a very good co-operative effort.

18. I do not have time to make a submission to this enquiry, sorry.

Final notes.

19. I am keen to write again and submit further comment.

20. I shall do my best to answer your enquires.

21. Over the years I have been collecting notes and ideas on how to make Calvary Hospital better. I shall make them available to you on request but I would prefer that you come to my Rooms to compare notes.

Yours sincerely,



17 November 2010

Andrew Gordon.

Dr Gordon away.

I am / was / shall be unavailable on / from / to / until / reason;

from	1200 hours	Friday	12 November 2010	}	Sydney Military Medical Symposium,
until	0800 hours	Monday	15 November 2010	}	Sydney.
from	1200 hours	Friday	19 November 2010	}	Locum Consultant Physician
until	2359 hours	Friday	17 December 2010	}	Katherine Hospital, NT.
from	2359 hours	Friday	17 December 2010	}	Gordon family Christmas dinner
until	0900 hours	Monday	20 December 2010	}	Melbourne.

•

Dr Andrew Gordon, MBBS, BMedSci, FRACP, FRCPA
Consultant Physician in General Medicine,
Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases.
Microbiologist

Provider No. 0311346H
Prescriber No. 481543

Suite 19, upper level, top NE cnr,
John James Medical Centre,
175 Strickland Cres,
DEAKIN, ACT, 2600.

Telephone 61 (0)2 6282 7333
Mobile 61 (0)407 008 512
Home 61 (0)2 62 888 450
Facsimile 61 (0)2 6282 7575

Ref RHD / Member of Parliament RHD / ACT MP / Ownership Calvary Hospital 20101116 extras
Dictated
Typed 18 July 2010
Edited 18 July 2010,
16 November 2010
Printed 16 November 2010

Member of ACT Legislative Assembly, Seat of Molongo, incorporating the suburb of Duffy,
ACT Parliament,
PO Box 1020,
CANBERRA, ACT., 2601.

Telephone 02 6205 0439
Facsimile 02 6205 3109

Member of ACT Legislative Assembly, Seat of Molongo, incorporating the suburb of Duffy,
ACT Parliament,
London Circuit,
CANBERRA CITY, ACT., 2600.

Telephone 02 6205 0439
Facsimile 02 6205 3109

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ownership, Calvary Hospital, BRUCE, ACT., 2617. 20100718. Extras.

 **Further revised and sent to the Enquiry into Calvary Hospital, only, not to the ACT Parliament itself.** There was an error, mine related to the sale of Calvary Hospital, in the earlier letter, since corrected.

Introduction.

1. This letter is a “follow-on” from my letter dated 03 July 2010.

Detail.

Betterment.

2. It is really important to know how much money the Little Company of Mary Health Care Limited contributed to Calvary Hospital mainly by way of buildings, e.g. Calvary Clinic and Hyson Green (Private psychiatry).

3. If the Little Company of Mary Health Care Limited paid for these buildings then the Company has made the Calvary site better and may, indeed probably, is entitled to a payment from the ACT Government / ACT taxpayers / ACT citizens so the assessment of value must be precise.

Summary.

.....
Dr Andrew Gordon

23 Wyangala St,
DUFFY, ACT, 2611.

4. Calvary Hospital ought **not** be sold by the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd to the ACT Government. It ought to be resumed by the people of the ACT.
5. If there is genuine betterment, the Little Company of Mary Health Care Limited is entitled to appropriate payment for "betterment" and should be paid.

Requests.

6. Please answer these complicated questions, both letters accurately, precisely, in detail, promptly.
7. Please do not allow any change in the status (sale) of Calvary Hospital until all this has been resolved to the benefit of the ACT citizens, especially those in north Canberra.
8. Please give the citizens of Canberra information and say in the change of ownership and / or management of Calvary Hospital.

Special question, repeated.

9. **Is it valid to sell a Crown lease back to the Crown? I think that the "Crown" i.e. the ACT Government, ought to resume the lease and thus the management of the Calvary Hospital and its grounds.**

Yours sincerely,

AG

17 November 2010

Andrew Gordon.

Special request.

Please send mail to my work address.

Dr Gordon away.

I am / was / shall be unavailable on / from / to / until / reason;

-

Dr Andrew Gordon, MBBS, BMedSci, FRACP, FRCPA
Consultant Physician in General Medicine,
Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases.
Microbiologist

Provider No. 0311346H
Prescriber No. 481543

Suite 19, upper level, top NE cnr,
John James Medical Centre,
175 Strickland Cres,
DEAKIN, ACT, 2600.

Telephone 61 (0)2 6282 7333
Mobile 61 (0)407 008 512
Home 61 (0)2 62 888 450
Facsimile 61 (0)2 6282 7575

Ref RHD / Member of Parliament RHD / ACT MP / Ownership Calvary Hospital 20100703 ACT revised

Dictated
Typed 13 May 2010,
03 July 2010
Edited 13 May 2010,
03 July 2010
Printed 16 November 2010

Member of ACT Legislative Assembly, Seat of Molongo, incorporating the suburb of Duffy,
ACT Parliament,
PO Box 1020,
CANBERRA, ACT., 2601.

Telephone 02 6205 0439
Facsimile 02 6205 3109

Member of ACT Legislative Assembly, Seat of Molongo, incorporating the suburb of Duffy,
ACT Parliament,
London Circuit,
CANBERRA CITY, ACT., 2600.

Telephone 02 6205 0439
Facsimile 02 6205 3109

Dear Sir / Madam,

→ Enquiry into Calvary Hospital.

Ownership, Calvary Hospital, BRUCE, ACT., 2617. 20100703. Continuing concern.
Revised letter.

Introduction.

1. I discovered to my horror that I made several errors in my letter dated 12 May 2010 regarding the potential sale of Calvary Hospital so I have revised the letter extensively and sent the letter to you again. It is re-dated, so as to ensure distinction from the earlier letter. I apologise for the errors. Sorry. I hope that this version of the letter is correct. Please discard the earlier letter.
2. I am extremely concerned about the sale of Calvary Hospital because I think that the sale of Calvary Hospital will be detrimental the patients in north Canberra, the potential patients in north Canberra and the staff of Calvary Hospital hence this letter.
3. This matter is highly complex. I have written a similar letter to the Federal Member of Parliament, set of Canberra, Ms Annette Ellis. The replies ought to be prepared independently without any co-operative venture nor collusion.

Detail.

4. I am concerned about the continuing publicity, none recently, related to the sale of Calvary Hospital. I think that the sale will be inimical to the patients and potential patients of north Canberra and to medicine overall in Canberra. These are my reasons.

Dr Andrew Gordon

23 Wyangala St,
DUFFY, ACT, 2611.

5. Calvary Hospital has an approach in terms of general medicine and general surgery not found anywhere else in Canberra. It has a good array of skills, medical and nursing, but has a major deficiency in terms super specialist equipment, e.g. a magnetic resonance scanner.

6. The talk about selling Calvary Hospital has not been good for the morale of Calvary Hospital staff.

7. When considered in the CT. citizen and as an ACT. tax-payer I cannot afford to go without the 77 million dollars (or whatever the current price being bandied around is) **nor can I afford to** pay the extra taxes. It is necessary to know precisely how much money the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd / Calvary Health Care Pty Ltd has put into the Calvary Hospital in terms of buildings. My understanding is by far the majority of the money has been provided by the Federal taxpayer or the ACT. taxpayer or their combined efforts. If this true then the Hospital **ought not be sold to the ACT Government.**

8. The situation is even more worrying; on the afternoon of Friday 08 May 2010 there were surveyors in the Hospital grounds. I asked what they were doing.

9. They told me that they were surveying for a sub-division of Calvary grounds.

10. This is worrying.

11. The reason it is worrying is because the implication is that the sale of Calvary Hospital is to go ahead without any information being given to the ACT citizens so as to give them a choice or invitation to comment.

12. The other reasons why Calvary Hospital should not be sold are as follows;

- a. it was / is a special purpose Crown lease from the then Australian tax payers to the ACT. citizens via The Little Company of Mary, a religious organisation. It seems to me that to change the conditions of a special purpose Crown lease contract will require permission from the Australian Government as well as the Territory Government,
- b. demographics. If one looks at the demographics, on average western populations increase at 2% per annum compound interest and the population doubles about every 30 years. On current population projections it seems that the population of Canberra is increasing slightly faster than that. Not only is the population increasing but the proportion of older people who require medical care is increasing faster still hence the logical requirements for extra hospital services in terms of;
 - i. staff,
 - ii. expertise,
 - iii. space on the ground,
 - iv. equipment,
 - v. buildings and
 - vi. parking, probably multilevel parking (this as actually already needed, but precisely where?)

13. There was, at one stage, talk of the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd / Calvary Health Care Pty Ltd i.e. a profit making organisation, having the land "outside" the Mary Potter Circuit and Calvary Public Hospital having the land inside Mary Potter Circuit. If this is true, this will be an extremely bad move, lacking in foresight, because there will then be no room for Calvary

Hospital to expand in subsequent years and all the population will do is curse the decision making skill or more to the point, the lack of decision making skill of the current Government.

14. Another troubling factor is that there have been no recent statements from the ACT. Government nor the ACT. Department of Health related to the plans in the long term for the Canberra Public Hospital system in particular the Calvary component. This is really, really important.

15. The difficulty is that all the patients want is to be well cared for in terms of accuracy, courtesy and promptness when they become sick or injured. So we have an absolute responsibility to ensure that we have a good public hospital system, especially for those in the north part of Canberra.

Suggestions.

16. It is not good form to write letters which have negative connotations so it is necessary to suggest extra ideas.

17. If extra private hospitals are required in Canberra should the extra private hospitals be given to the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd? **This is not an easy question to ask. It is an even more difficult question to answer.** It is necessary to survey the demographics and the requirements for private care in Canberra with respect to the number of public hospitals and the number of private hospitals already in Canberra and then review the geographical distribution of the population and the hospitals so as to work out what to do next. Many people think that Calvary Hospital should be administered by the ACT people, i e by the Department of Health in the ACT.

Summary.

18. Calvary Hospital ought not be sold to the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd. It ought to be resumed by the people of the ACT.

Corrected version of paragraph 18.

18. Calvary Hospital ought *not* be sold to the ACT Government. It ought to be resumed by the people of the ACT i.e. no money ought to change hands.

19. The Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd and in particular the ACT. Government and the Federal Government must review the demographics and the requirement for extra private or public hospitals in Canberra.

20. It seems to me that there is plenty of space in the Calvary Hospital grounds for adequate expansion for the Calvary **Public** Hospital in the current grounds provided none is sold.

21. If the Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd wants extra territory then one could consider the land on the west side of Hayden Drive as an extension of the current Little Company of Mary Health Care Pty Ltd Retirement Village. There may be better ideas which will appear as a result of proper analysis.

Requests.

22. Please answer these complicated questions accurately, precisely, in detail, promptly.

23. Please do not allow any change in the status (sale) of Calvary Hospital until all this has been resolved to the benefit of the ACT citizens, especially those in north Canberra.

Special question.

24. Is it valid to sell a Crown lease back to the Crown? I think that the "Crown" i.e. the ACT Government, ought to resume the lease and thus the management of the Calvary Hospital and its grounds.

Yours sincerely,



 17 November 2010

Andrew Gordon.

Final notes.

- F01 What a complicated subject. It is difficult to write a letter such as this with balance and suggestions for possible better solutions; to answer this letter will not be easy, either.
- F02 Please thank and take your time in preparing the reply, but please do not take too long.
- F03 Please do not allow the sale of Calvary Hospital. I am sure that in the long term the sale of Calvary Hospital will be bad for the people of Canberra.
- F04. There is a feeling that the lease ought to be resumed by the people of the ACT via the ACT Government without money being involved and that Calvary Hospital ought to be managed by a local board with funding from the ACT Department of Health (which it is, via the ACT taxpayers).

Special request.

Please send mail to my work address.

Dr Gordon away.

I am / was / shall be unavailable on / from / to / until / reason;

from	1700 hours	Friday	02 July 2010	}	Australasian Society for Microbiology,
until	0800 hours	Friday	09 July 2010	}	Annual Scientific Congress, CME, Sydney.
then					
from	0800 hours	Friday	09 July 2010	}	7 Field Ambulance military medical dinner,
until	0900 hours	Monday	12 July 2010	}	Perth.