



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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### STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

### CALVARY BRIEFING BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH COMMUNIQUE

**Tuesday, 5 September 2023 (3:00 – 3:30 pm)**  
**Kiribati Room**

**Present:**

Committee Members: Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair)  
Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ACT Government: Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health)

ACT Health:

Mr Dave Pepper (Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services)  
Ms Rebecca Cross (Director-General, ACT Health Directorate)  
Ms Cathie O'Neill (Deputy Director-General, Service Continuity, Northside  
Transition, CHS)

Secretariat: Dr Adele Chynoweth OAM  
Ms Anna Hough  
Mr Dikshes Patel

**Summary:**

**1. Briefing Summary**

- The briefing commenced at 3:04 pm.

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce

- The first pay run after the hospital transfer proceeded smoothly, occurring on the regular pay date.
- The pay run included a transition payment of \$200 in recognition of the staff time and paperwork associated with the transition process.
- A total of 51 staff took redundancies (fewer than anticipated).
- All redundancies were self-declared and not imposed. In other words, it was the choice of staff members who did not wish to transition.
- 97% of Calvary staff members have transitioned to employment with Canberra Health Services
- 130 visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) have been re-contracted.
- Of the staff who decided to take redundancies, 23 were nurses, nine were support service staff, nine were midwives, seven were other health staff and three were doctors.

- The recruitment of nurses and midwives is ongoing.
- Some midwives have been recruited from interstate.
- There were sonographers that took redundancies, particularly cardiac sonographers, and recruitment has been occurring for sonographers. However, there has been no disruption to cardiology services.
- Feedback from staff on the transition has been largely positive.
- Café chat sessions have been held with staff. Externally-facilitated sessions are commencing next week.
- Consultation with patients found most did not notice the transition had occurred.
- Staff concerns are mainly around general workforce pressures and fatigue.
- Post-transition there has been a better balancing of clinical loads between the ACT's public hospitals, for example movement of patients between emergency departments and between maternity wards.
- All public hospital recruitment in the ACT is taking place under the Canberra Health Services banner, although some roles are site specific, others are not, and some rotate across sites.

#### Calvary Private Hospital Bruce

- The ACT Government previously held discussions with the Little Company of Mary about expanding the footprint of Calvary Private Hospital.
- The private hospital's boundary was larger after 3 July 2023.

#### Clare Holland House (CHH)

- The transition of CHH has been progressing smoothly, despite the short notice to staff.
- CHH works in an integrated way with the North Canberra Hospital and staff are eager to continue to do so.
- A question was taken on notice on final redundancy numbers and the Committee was subsequently advised that there were a total of four redundancies taken at CHH.

#### Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023

- Minister Stephen-Smith and officials appeared at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's hearing on 4 September 2023 as part of its inquiry into the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment Bill 2023.
- Questions taken on notice at the Senate hearing are due on 5 September 2023, and the Committee is due to report on 6 September 2023.
- The North Canberra Hospital post-acquisition joint committee, a formal meeting between the ACT Government and Calvary Health Care, continues to meet twice weekly (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) to work across issues related to the transition, including discussion of compensation for the acquisition.
- Negotiating a compensation figure is likely to take months. The legislation sets out the process for claims to be made within 12 months.

## **2. Adjournment and next Briefing**

- 2.1 The Chair closed the Briefing at 3.32 pm and adjourned the Committee until the next Calvary Briefing scheduled for 3:00 – 3:30 pm on Tuesday 17 October 2023.

*(Communiqué approved and signed)*

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing  
October 2023



Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Minister for Health  
**27** October 2023