

Committee Secretary, Ms Grace Concannon

Dear Ms Grace Concannon

I wish to place on the public record my support for option one. I write on behalf of many members of the Catholic Community.

The future of Calvary Hospital has been in the public area for the last few years.

The cause for the recent uncertainty is the result for actions of LCM. In 1997 LCM's Australian Province found it necessary to set up a National management arm, LCMHC, now lay staffed and led. The offices of LCMHC are located in Sydney and its Board operates from there. The action removed the local board of governance which ran Calvary Hospital Canberra. Unfortunately this was I understand agreed to by then Archbishop Carroll. This action centralised the decision making of LCM concerning the operation of LCM facilities around Australia. It also ignored a key principle or modus operandi of the Catholic Church which is the doctrine of subsidiarity meaning that matters are to be resolved at the lowest and most appropriate level. LCM by concentrating its national operations in a national board effectively removed its operations from the involvement of the local bishop in each state. This meant that the particular interests of the Canberra community were subsumed by the interests of the national company. The unique history of the public hospital lease in the ACT was not acknowledged and respected.

In the ACT this has had a particular result. In the 1960's the Archdiocese and the then Federal Government agreed and resolved that the Catholic Archdiocese would be given the 99 year lease and capital and recurrent funding to establish Calvary Public Hospital. The Archdiocese then asked one of its orders operating in the health sector namely LCM to operate the hospital and to hold the lease. In 2007 LCM when developing its plans failed to involve the current Archbishop in its plans and sought to bypass him in the process. As is possible will occur in other states.

This approach resulted in the protracted negotiations which was resolved this year when Price Waterhouse Cooper finally advised the Stanhope Government what many of us knew all along. Namely that the hospital has

been funded by the tax payer and is in fact publicly owned and there for it was not necessary or appropriate to pay LCM \$77 mil to buy the hospital.

In summary the people and government have been unnecessarily confused and concerned by the failure of LCM to respect and accept the authority of the local Archbishop who maintains a key position and therefore authority in the operation of the hospital because under church law it is he who determines the nature and operation of any Catholic institution within his jurisdiction.

I would therefore request that the committee recommend that LCM introduce a local board with the Archbishop represented on the board to ensure that we do not have a repeat the confusion and frustration of the last few years. In short the local governance of Calvary Public Hospital must be resolved and I would submit it is in the Government 's interest to ensure the hospital has in place the appropriate authority to operate consistent with the lease issue to the Archdiocese by the Commonwealth in the 1960's and inherited by the ACT Government. This will be important if a hospital network is to be established.

Paul Monagle

Friends of Calvary Hospital

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