

Dear Committee members

The CPSU represents around 60,000 public sector employees across Australia and this includes over 13,000 public sector workers in the ACT. On behalf of the hundreds of employees we cover at Calvary Public Hospital we seek to bring the following concerns to the Committee regarding the future ownership and management arrangements at Calvary Public Hospital.

We note the anticipated release of the Government's discussion paper and we reserve our right to lodge a more detailed submission upon the release of that paper.

Of the proposed options identified by the government the CPSU strongly supports option number 4 as follows:

'The ACT Government builds a new acute public hospital on Canberra's north side.'

We support this option for a number of reasons, a few of which I outline below.

First, we have had ongoing industrial difficulties with the management of the Little Company of Mary (Calvary Health Care). We have been unable to work effectively with the management of the company to ensure that the best outcomes for patients and for staff are achieved. This is of significant concern to us and has serious implications for the delivery of quality services to the ACT community in an area which is fundamental - health services. It should be noted that the relationship we have with Calvary Public Hospital sits in stark contrast to the CPSU's positive and cooperative working relationship with ACT Health in the management of The Canberra Hospital.

Second, the CPSU believes that hospital services are best delivered by the public sector which is able to focus on the care of patients and proper treatment of staff rather than on maximising profits.

Third, it is our view that the public will be best served by a new public hospital on the north side, a region of Canberra which is crying out for more quality, publicly provided health services.

Mr Vince McDevitt
ACT Regional Director
Community and Public Sector Union