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Submission on the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment Bill 2023*

The Bill proposes to mandate that the ACT Government hold an inquiry into the transfer of the Calvary Hospital to ACT Government management.

It is difficult to see that this is anything but a political move because there is nothing that in the Bill or statements around the Bill that shows any concern for what is best for the residents of Canberra. It will be a waste of public money to hold an inquiry as it is clearly known why the ACT Government has effected the transfer. Discussions over upgrading Calvary Hospital and making it a hospital that can great all residents rather than transferring those with more serious issues to Canberra Hospital at Woden.

Myself and family have had occasion to use Calvary Hospital. My family lives on the south side of Canberra so Calvary is their nearest hospital. However, each time they have gone there, they have been transferred to Canberra Hospital because Calvary did not have the services to deal with their health issues. Calvary must be updated and improved to be able to meet the needs of Canberra residents on the south side and to take pressure off Canberra Hospital with transfers from Calvary.

My granddaughter was turned away from Calvary Hospital three times even though her mother pleaded for help. She collapsed at home on the night after being told there was nothing wrong with her by Cavalry emergency doctors. She was taken by ambulance to Canberra Hospital after my daughter pleaded not to be taken to Cavalry again. She was suffering a live-threatening brain infection.

My husband some years back was also taken to Calvary by ambulance with a head injury and was transferred to Canberra Hospital for treatment.

Our family avoids Cavalry wherever we can. It has nothing to do with who runs it, but that Calvary needs serious upgrade including to its health service.

The Bill if passed will require an inquiry that is unnecessary and appears based on some unfounded view that the transfer is about religion. It is not, as the ACT Government has made entirely clear throughout.

Please do not allow our public money, and our ACT resources, to be wasted in this way.

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