

Dear Senate Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee in relation to the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment Bill, 2023, requesting an inquiry into the actions of the ACT Government's usurpation of Calvary Hospital.

I humbly request the Committee's support for the Bill as the planning and implementation of this take over is by far the most disturbing I have encountered in my career in the Service Provision (Non-Government) Sector. In trying to effectively articulate the conflict I feel as a citizen/service provider against the actions and behaviour of the ACT Government, I have called upon the ACT's own guideline documents to highlight the hypocrisy demonstrated.

Concerns include:

- The total disregard of the ACT's own Social Compact Statement (2011) in the way that it has treated the highly functioning and effective service provider, The Little Company of Mary – Calvary Hospital. The ACT's Social Compact Statement is a statement of understanding about the relationship between the ACT Government and the community sector. It outlines the ACT Government's Principles for working together (page 7). I believe the ACT Government has not respected, not provided open communication, not engaged, not honored Calvary's excellence in service, disempowered and subsequently disenfranchised a key Health Provider –
 - “These principles provide the foundation for the partnership and constructive working relations between the community sector and Government. RESPECT Mutual respect for the roles, and recognition of the capacity and capabilities, of each sector. OPEN COMMUNICATION Open and transparent communication and processes, and confidence and trust in each other. ENGAGEMENT Community participation in planning, policy development and other decision-making that is inclusive of our diverse community. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT Innovation and continuous improvement in the planning, delivery of services and workforce development. LEADERSHIP Integrity, ethical practice, accountability and leadership in the way each partner operates. DIVERSITY Flexibility and cultural sensitivity when consulting and responding to different groups in the community.”
 - The ACT Government has demonstrated a lack of follow-through in regard to its undertakings of the Social Compact

toward Calvary Hospital, its clients, staff and management (page 9)-

“Take responsibility in the relationship and be accountable for processes and outcomes. ■ Encourage and expand opportunities for joint work on policy review, development and planning.”

- Lack of Consultation – ACT Government has rammed through its intention to seize the Calvary Hospital denying the community respectful consultation and communication (see ACT Planning and Development (Community Consultation) Guidelines 2020 (page 8).

5. Conduct face-to-face engagement session(s) that are accessible to a diverse cross-section of the community. The location, timing, number and type of sessions should be considered. Sessions should also be tailored to accommodate people from a diverse demographic, including those with special needs. The number of face-to-face sessions will depend on the type of the proposal and will be proportionate to the significance of the development. For example, a major multi-storey, mixed-use proposal should have at least two face-to-face sessions – an initial session introducing the proposal and a follow-up session which could detail how initial feedback has been considered. Conduct face-to-face engagement session(s) that are accessible to a diverse cross-section of the community. The location, timing, number and type of sessions should be considered. Sessions should also be tailored to accommodate people from a diverse demographic, including those with special needs. The number of face-to-face sessions will depend on the type of the proposal and will be proportionate to the significance of the development. For example, a major multi-storey, mixed-use proposal should have at least two face-to-face sessions – an initial session introducing the proposal and a follow-up session which should detail how initial feedback has been considered.

10. Developers are strongly encouraged to undertake two or more phases of consultation for large or significant developments. The first phase may involve early discussions around a concept idea where less information is provided, with detailed information provided in a follow-up phase. For phased consultation, it is expected the proponent complies with points 1 to 5 and makes consultation information, including the information required by points 6 and 7, be available for public inspection across all phases of consultation.

ACT Government has disregarded all guidelines in regard to the planning and usurpation of Calvary.

By treating Calvary Hospital exclusively in this appalling manner, I believe the ACT Government has acted ideologically in its quest to push forward in its agenda against the Pro-Life foundations and freedoms of this Catholic Hospital and the rights of its faithful to continue to provide ethical, faith-based care for Canberrans and indeed all

Australians who are treated in Catholic Hospitals. In changing legislation, process and procedure to suit its own agenda, the ACT Government in this acquisition, has set a dangerous precedent for demonstrated governmental overreach, impacting democracy itself in the Capital of this once great bastion of freedom and the rule of law.

Once again, I humbly ask for your support of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment Bill, 2023 as tabled and commence the Inquiry process into the ACT Government's actions, behaviour and gall in this antithetical assumption of land, resources, staff and culture.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Papasidero