



## **Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn**

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now you would have heard the shocking news that the ACT Government intends to compulsorily acquire our wonderful Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce.

This is despite the fact that we have been offering high quality patient care under our Catholic ethos for the past 44 years on this site. 76 years remain on the contract negotiated and signed in 2010 with the then Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher.

No convincing reasons to date have been offered for this draconian action by the ACT Government. No systemic issues of concern regarding Calvary's health outcomes has been identified; to the contrary the Health Minister made a point of emphasising Calvary's excellent care for patients.

I am deeply troubled about this situation and its implications.

My prayers and thoughts are immediately directed to the 1,800 workers of the hospital and their families. They must be worried about the ramifications of this decision for their future employment.

I am also concerned that this action, based on obsessive government control, would deprive future generations in Canberra of the choice of hospital care based on the ethos of our cherished Catholic faith.

There is a rising fear, also, that this extraordinary and completely unnecessary government intervention could set the scene for future "acquisitions" of any faith-based health facility or, indeed, any faith-based enterprise including education or social welfare.

To respond practically to this critical situation, I have established today the "Calvary Hospital Taskforce – Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn." Fr Tony Percy, has kindly accepted my invitation to lead this Taskforce. This group will be contacting you to offer you practical ways of responding including participating in an online petition at [www.savecalvary.com.au](http://www.savecalvary.com.au) before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 when it is intended the legislation for acquisition becomes effective.

Let us all pray for common sense to prevail and that the sick and Hospital staff are saved from anxiety and can live in health and peace.

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
**Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn**



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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

10 May 2023

### **Archbishop Prowse ‘totally stunned and shocked’ by ACT Governments takeover of Calvary Hospital Bruce**

After serving Canberra and the region with distinction for over 44 years, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce has been blindsided by the ACT Government, who announced today that they had begun an acquisition process to take control and ownership of the hospital.

If the proposed legislation is passed at the end of the month, Calvary Hospital Bruce will cease to operate under the governance of the Little Company of Mary.

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Archbishop Christopher Prowse expressed his deep concern saying he was “totally stunned and shocked” by the decision, “which came without warning or discussion”.

“We are utterly astounded,” Archbishop Prowse said. “There has been no formal contact with the Archdiocese, nor has any reason been given.

“The lack of transparency of the ACT Government raises several questions and concerns. It is a very sad day when Governments can simply decide to mount a take-over of any enterprise they like without any justification.

“This is certainly a worrying precedent,” said Archbishop Prowse.

It is understood that after several months of dialogue, the Government ceased participating in good faith negotiations with Calvary Hospital and prepared this decision without warning or consultation.

The Archdiocese is meeting with Calvary Health Care to discuss these developments.

***For media enquiries contact 0409 498 382 or email [Communications@cq.org.au](mailto:Communications@cq.org.au)***