



# Feds back ACT Govt bid for Calvary Hospital

The Federal Government has backed the ACT's bid to buy Calvary Hospital.

The ACT Government has offered \$77 million to the Little Company of Mary if the organisation will relinquish its lease over the public hospital.

The Government will also sell Clare Holland House – a hospice on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin – to the Little Company of Mary for \$9 million as part of the deal.

Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon met yesterday with ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope to discuss health reform.

“Well, obviously whoever manages local hospitals, public and private, is an issue for the particular

territory to deal with,” Ms Roxon said after the meeting.

“I do understand that the . . . ACT Government believes that this is a way for them to be able to plan the delivery of their health services in a more effective way and obviously I believe that’s an appropriate matter for them to pursue.”

Ms Roxon also acknowledged the special challenges facing the ACT.

“Unusually for a capital city, [the ACT] has a very low number of GPs and a very low bulk-billing rate. We understand that it is a problem in the ACT,” she said.

The Commonwealth had agreed to provide five extra GP training places in the ACT but was being lobbied to do more. **Danielle Cronin**