



Greens' Calvary move defeated

A Greens motion to separate the purchase of Calvary Hospital and the sale of Canberra's hospice was voted down by the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

The Government wants to buy Calvary Hospital from the Little Company of Mary Health Care for \$77 million, but the sale is contingent on the Government selling Clare Holland House, for \$9 million.

Greens health spokeswoman Amanda Bresnan put forward a motion calling on Health Minister Katy Gallagher to write to the little Company of Mary to consider each sale separately.

"From the consultation we know people support the purchase of Calvary Hospital. They don't support it being tied to the sale of the hospice. And I think we need to be putting pressure on LCM, who are holding the cards in this, and make them listen to the community. They need to do what's best for the ACT community not just themselves," Ms Bresnan said.

She said the full weight of the Assembly would help push the Little Company of Mary into negotiation.

"The health minister stated that Calvary hold all the cards in this issue so I would have thought they would have wanted that support from the Legislative Assembly on this issue."

But Liberals health spokesman Jeremy Hanson said the sale was a package deal and accused the Greens of backtracking.

Little Company of Mary chairman Tom Brennan reaffirmed last week the organisation's position that it would not sell the hospital unless it could buy the hospice.

"It's quite clear that the Greens motion is for show," Mr Hanson said.

"Really just empty words, just an attempt to appease people in the community." **Ewa Kretowicz**