



Greens slammed on hospice deal

Supporters say it's time party made a firm decision

By EWA KRETOWICZ

SUPPORTERS of Clare Holland House have slammed the Greens for failing to take a stand on the hospice sale.

The Facebook group run by Katie Poidomani has more than 300 members and is opposed to the Little Company of Mary's purchase.

Ms Poidomani said the sale did not stand on its own and was being used as a bargaining chip in the ACT Government's \$77 million purchase of Calvary Hospital.

"At the forum, Mr Stanhope could not clearly state what advantages there would be in selling the hospice. However, we were clear on the disadvantages to selling to a private organisation," Ms Poidomani said.

She called on the Greens to make

a decision.

"We say to the ACT Greens, if you truly want to be a party that the community take seriously, you must and should make yourselves clear on all issues, and not give mixed signals.

"The ACT Liberals have made themselves clear on the issue, by opposing it, now is the time for the ACT Greens to do the same. Time for talking is over. Now is the time for action."

But Greens health spokesman Amanda Bresnan said she would not be pressured into a premature decision.

"We actually don't have a final proposal before us . . . it still has to go to cabinet and we don't know what's going to come out of that process," Ms Bresnan said.

She said yesterday her party did not believe the hospice should be

sold to a religious organisation, but refused to say whether the Greens would vote against the sale if the hospice remained part of the deal.

"We genuinely want to see if we can get this decoupling to happen. We would like to see it stay in Government hands; we would like LCM to be considering decoupling the sale. I would actually have thought that the other parties would have been with us to stand up to LCM, because I think we should be doing what is in the best interests of the community," she said.

Opposition health spokesman Jeremy Hanson said the Greens deserved censure.

"The Green are really just full of empty words. They need to be clear about their position," Mr Hanson said.