



Greens' call for review adds to hospital debate

The Greens want an independent review of palliative care in the ACT before the sale of Calvary Hospital is finalised.

The \$77 million deal, which is conditional on the sale of Clare Holland House to the Little Company of Mary, the owners of Calvary Hospital, requires Greens support.

Greens health spokeswoman Amanda Bresnan said there was conflict between health-care consumers and the ACT Government about the provision of palliative care services in the territory.

The Greens' suggested terms of reference include an investigation into resourcing and staffing as well as models of care.

Liberal health spokesman Jeremy Hanson accused the Greens

of softening their positions.

"This is the start of a sell-out from the Greens. They are looking to change their position. They said they would previously not support the sale. In my view this is the start of a re-positioning," he said. The president of the ACT Palliative Care Society, David Lawrance, supported an independent review.

"The Society cannot conceive of any realistic circumstances in which the sale of the hospice into monopoly, private, religious, or other ownership could possibly result in the expansion or enhancement of palliative care in the territory to a greater degree than the community itself would achieve from continued public ownership of the hospice," Mr Lawrance said. **Ewa Kretowicz**