



Calvary Hospital to remain private

ACT Government plans to acquire Calvary Hospital have been thrown into a spin following an announcement on Sunday that the Little Company of Mary (LCM) would no longer proceed with a transfer of ownership to the government.

"We have advised the ACT Government that we are unable to continue discussions on the current proposal," LCM health care chairman Tom Brennan said.

"The Australian Province of the Little Company of Mary, whose approval is one of those necessary for the transfer, decided this week not to proceed with the recommendation from the LCM Health Care board to accept the proposal," he said.

"The sisters took this decision in the light of very recent communications from Archbishop Coleridge of the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese.

"They drew from the communication that any Vatican approval, if granted at all, would take a number of years. Accordingly, they believe it would not be in the interests of the community of Canberra, to apply for approval for the sale to the Holy See," Mr Brennan said.

He said rather than draw out an already protracted process and

prolong the uncertainty at the hospital and for the community, the Sisters felt they should take it no further, given the view they now had of the chances of a timely resolution in Rome.

"They were mindful that the proposal was strongly opposed by some members of the Church in Canberra and elsewhere, and did not want to deepen those divisions and risk their actions causing damage to the Church," Mr Brennan said.

"The Sisters have said they are disappointed to have had to make this decision and have made it only after careful, prayerful consideration," he said.

The proposal for the transfer of Calvary to the government was conditional on a number of approvals, including the local and governing Provinces of the Little Company of Mary, the Holy See and the ACT Legislative Assembly.

"At the outset and as we went through the stages of the process last year, we believed it likely, based on close consultation with the Sisters, our Canon Law advice and on both public and private statements of the Archbishop and his Vicar General, that the Church approvals would be secured in a reasonable time frame.

"We and the Sisters are now of

the view that this is no longer the case," Mr Brennan said.

"The LCM Board agrees with the Sisters that a lengthy delay would prevent us from delivering the capital investment needed in the public and private hospital at the time it is needed – commencing in the next two to three years," he said.



The sale of Calvary hospital will not proceed.