

CT - Sat 10 Oct 09  
Letters to the Editor

### **CALVARY CONFUSION**

The lease for Calvary hospital was negotiated between prime minister

Harold Holt and the then Archbishop O'Brien and given to Little Company of Mary by the archbishop to hold on behalf of the Church.

If LCM can no longer discharge its duty it should return the lease to the archdiocese for the balance of the lease.

The LCM board has failed to involve the wider church and the community in its deliberations. If the board gets its way, \$77 million will leave the territory for no good reason.

The Stanhope Government should not be spending the federal health dollar in this way when it is not necessary. It has underfunded the hospital because it suits and the community must not accept this situation.

As a principle, if funding were to be provided only where the government had ownership of the assets, we would have Joe Stalin back in charge and state ownership would be the rule of the day. An unworkable policy.

There is no impediment to a closer working relationship between ACT Health and Calvary under a local board established by the archdiocese.

The close relationship which exists between the two pathology departments can be replicated in other areas such as ICU, CCU and emergency.

However, improved funding would also help. The Catholic and wider community should make their submissions to the Government's consultation process.

**Paul Monagle,**  
Covenor, Friends of Calvary Hospital