



## Calvary Hospital

Your reporter Natasha Rudra did her professional reputation no harm with her brief and accurate report of the first public consultation session on the Calvary Hospital issue ("Calvary sale won't be decided by public", October 17, p2).

From the fog of flam delivered by Minister Gallagher's panel, Ms Rudra's lead sentence cut to the essence of the government's position: the proposed sale would go ahead even if there was massive opposition from the public during the six week consultation. The majority of the audience (at Calvary) was clearly angered by what was seen as an abuse of the consultation process.

Despite the apparently mandatory power-point presentation, the stressing of the extraordinary importance of a very dubious bookkeeping process, proof of a better health system is not demonstratively on offer.

Cicero said: who profits? The principal parties to the sale appear to say: who cares? I do!

Richard J. Hall. Griffith

Just let me see if I've got this straight?

The Little Company of Mary is about to receive \$77 million from the taxpayer for a property it never paid for in the first place. Out of those funds it proposes to pay the taxpayer \$9 million for Clare Holland House and the beautiful lakeside land upon which it stands. Will the Little Company of Mary, in about 10 years' time, try the same trick again? Will it ask our children to pay them \$ 50 million for that very same property when they find they no longer need it for a hospice because they have included a few palliative care beds in the private hospital they intend to build on the land they retain at Bruce?

Have I missed something?

Dennis Palmer, Deakin

The sale of the Calvary Hospital, should it occur, will allow the Catholic Church to profit by a further investment into another money-making private hospital, supporting the already owned

John James and Lidia Perin hospitals, the transfer of ownership to the church of the palliative care facility and sixty million dollars of public money for a sale on land that was given to the Catholic hierarchy by the Commonwealth as a lease at the time of its development.

What a outrageous profit this represents to the gnomes of Rome! Education, palliative care and private hospitals all seem to promote the primary notion of profit from an excessively wealthy church rather than providing a service for the poor and homeless.

Perhaps it is time to rename the Little Company of Mary to the Big Company of Health Care Profiteers supported by a compliant, no, complicit ACT government passing over even more health care control to religious interests, with questionable haste.

Just who is pulling the strings, one needs to ask?

R. Williams. Ainslie