



Calvary queries

Explanations offered by Adam Browne and David Wilson (Letters, October 27) about the fairness of methods used to conduct a survey on the sale of Calvary Hospital appear a tad defensive to me.

Browne's letter contains numerous circumlocutions ("may have", "probably", "it appears that"), but how does he know that everything about this survey is kosher? David Wilson's letter contains similar reassurances about the fairness of the survey, in which I was also asked to participate, then rejected because of my answer to the question about religion.

They may know a lot about surveys, but if they know more about this particular one than most of us, perhaps because of some unstated connection, then they should put that into print too.

Roy Darling, Florey

I am a practising Catholic and lived in Canberra for over 40 years.

I have deep respect for the religious order of the Little Company of Mary and I thank it for willingly taking on such a heavy responsibility in Canberra

and for their Christian and professional contribution to health care in Canberra and the region.

I am also comforted in the knowledge that its presence and support will continue in the ACT. The LCM knows better than anyone what is needed for the future of hospital provision and care in the ACT; its technical knowledge and vision are widely respected; and it has been a provider of advice to many governments Canberra.

In the current legitimate negotiations to purchase the crown lease, the Government and the LCM need the support of sensible and practical people who understand the process. It is quite straightforward. Indeed the consultation forums have made it transparent.

The LCM could have opted not to disclose the financial details of the Government's offer on the basis of commercial in-confidence or not to negotiate at all.

It is its lease with more than 60 years to run.

The time has come to look to the

future, recognise the limitations of both parties in terms of resources and finance and honestly and openly seek the best outcome. The LCM is entitled to sell and to the value of the unexpired portion of the lease, as is every leaseholder in the territory.

It would be a crushing burden and major disincentive for any not-for-profit group to take on a responsibility if it was impossible to exit from it.

The provision of a more extensive and modern public hospital, the transfer of ownership of Clare Holland House and a new private hospital run by the LCM sounds like an excellent outcome to me.

Both parties need to be congratulated.

John Malouf, Hawker

The Calvary phone poll should have asked two more questions: 1. Should a Church demand or accept money it's not morally entitled to? 2. Would you vote for a party that wastes your money by paying for something twice?

R. S. Gilbert, Braddon