

This media release gained television, print and radio coverage and was written for a non-profit group opposing the sale of a government asset.

MEDIA RELEASE

ACT Residents say no to the proposed sale of Clare Holland House

Concerned Canberra residents have expressed their apprehension at the proposed sale of Clare Holland House and what this would mean to the future of hospice services in the ACT region under a proposed deal between the ACT government and the Little Company of Mary Health Care.

[name removed] has worked for almost 30 years as the face of palliative care in the ACT and was instrumental in setting up home-based palliative care and the planning and establishment of Clare Holland House and is the patron of the ACT Palliative Care Society. [name removed] has expressed concern that the ACT government has neither adequately listened to nor included some of the serious concerns that members of the community have expressed in the proposed sale contract.

[name removed] has also expressed concern for the future of Clare Holland House once the LCMHC takes over the leasehold for the Clare Holland House site. "Clare Holland House is located on a peaceful, beautiful piece of waterfront property and there are concerns that the hospice may be closed to make way for other community services such as a private retirement village, for the profit of the LCMHC and to the detriment of the ACT community."

"I am dismayed at the entire public consultation process and the timing of the public meetings being held by the government which have all been made during business hours and at the busiest times at the two hospital locations where parking will become an issue." [name removed] says.

[names removed] nursed their mother through the last stages of cancer at Clare Holland House and experienced first-hand the compassion, love and care that the doctors and nurses at Clare Holland House display every day in their care of terminal patients. They are concerned that the proposed sale of Clare Holland House will see a significant change in management's attitude to hospice and the criteria for eligibility to use this important service.

"Once LCMHC took over John James Memorial Hospital we saw them remove all IVF services from the premises as this vital service didn't reflect its values. Both JJMH and Calvary Public and Private under the LCMHC no longer provide tubal ligation to women as again it does not reflect its values. We are concerned that once the leasehold of CHH is taken over by LCMHC that these values will be reflected in the choice of patients who are allowed to enter CHH." says [name removed].

"Our family raised a significant sum of money for CHH during and after Mum's death as we

are strongly committed to the future of CHH and its nursing staff. The money was used to set up a fund with the specific purpose of raising awareness of palliative care and funding nurses to increase their skills. We know the money has not be used to send nurses to extra training and conferences and to date we have not be able to get a response out of LCMHC regarding the fund and how the money has been spent. This raises significant issues for anyone who has donated money to CHH in good faith that the funds would be used to assist CHH and its staff." Says [name removed].

Clare Holland House is a vital community service which needs to stay in public hands not for private profit. The ACT government needs to seriously consider the ramifications of the proposed sale and the impact this would have on the future of the hospice.

For further information or interviews please contact: