

### **THE FORCIBLE ACQUISITION OF CALVARY HOSPITAL IS THE GREATEST INFRINGEMENT UPON THE CHURCH BY THE STATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.**

The A.C.T. Government's decision to compulsorily acquire Calvary Hospital from The Little Company of Mary, a Catholic Agency, is an unprecedented and despicable act that sets a dangerous precedent.

Many Catholics, who make up approximately 20% of the A.C.T. population, will be shocked and disheartened to hear that their Government has chosen to take such a drastic unprecedented incursion into the operation of the Church and its agencies.

This heinous incursion is a decision I am confident that many Catholics will remember when they next go to the ballot box.

If the Government intends to forcibly take the assets of the Church, where will they draw the line? Furthermore, it is plainly unacceptable that Government seeks to infringe on the operations and assets of the Church, who has provided affordable healthcare, education, aged care and social welfare to the Canberra community for over 100 years.

This forcible measure is the most significant infringement upon the Church in the history of the A.C.T. and is a plain abuse of Government power and lawmaking.

We call upon all Catholics and people of goodwill to make their disdain about this blatant infringement known to their elected members and the A.C.T. Government by writing, calling, and taking other protest actions.

In faith, let us continue to pray for our Church and our elected Government. Pax Vobis.

- Statement Ends -

*Catholic Action is a grassroots, lay, issue-based, Catholic social action organisation that has chapters across the globe.*

