

# Council For The National Interest

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The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

*Dear Prime Minister*

There has been considerable media publicity, recently, regarding the decision of the Government of the ACT to introduce legislation to forcibly take over the Catholic-run Calvary Public Hospital. ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr has not provided any valid reason for this takeover.

ACT Health Minister, Rachel Stephen-Smith has acknowledged that Calvary hospital has played an important role in delivering public hospital care for Canberrans for 44 years.

It is reported the Calvary lease is for 120 years and has 76 years to run.

For the ACT government to tear up this lease and dispossess Calvary of its legal property rights is a first step to a totalitarian State. If it is allowed to occur it will create a precedent of for States and Territories to take the same course in circumstances they choose.

Section 122 of the Australian Constitution gives the Federal Parliament the power to make laws for the Territories. We urge you, most strongly, to convince Chief Minister Barr to discontinue his disgraceful action and if he refuses to do so then please implement Federal legislation to abolish the ACT legislation to dispossess Calvary of its property rights.

We look forward to your favourable response.

*Sincerely*

*Denis J Whitely*

Denis J Whitely – CNI Executive Committee