



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Mr Gerard Hayes
Health Services Union
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Dear Mr Hayes *Gerard*

The ACT Government has today announced its plan to build a new northside hospital on the current Calvary Public Hospital site in Bruce to meet the needs of an ageing and growing Canberra.

The new northside hospital will be owned by the ACT Government and operated by Canberra Health Services, delivering a more efficient and effective health system for Canberrans.

The ACT Government negotiated with Calvary Health Care to seek an agreed path forward to transfer the land for the new hospital and establish a modern services agreement. However, these negotiations were not successful in delivering an outcome in the interests of the ACT community.

The ACT Government will therefore introduce the Health Infrastructure Enabling Bill 2023 in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday 11 May 2023, which, if passed, will enable it to acquire the Calvary Public Hospital land and to transition existing Calvary staff and assets to the Territory from 3 July 2023.

This change will enable Canberra Health Services to be the ACT public health system's single public hospital provider, which will enable better coordination of health services, support the community across the health system, strengthen the health workforce, and facilitate Territory-wide infrastructure planning and development.

This decision will provide certainty for the planning and construction of the new northside hospital and take advantage of the benefits of a single provider system as soon as possible.

The ACT Government has prioritised providing certainty for staff who will be affected by this transition and acted on advice that the best approach is to provide a reasonable period of adjustment without prolonging the process.

This was a difficult decision to make, and I know staff will be feeling anxious and uncertain about what this means for their employment and the services they provide.

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We are inviting Calvary Public Hospital team members to make contact and provide their details to transition their employment to Canberra Health Services. A registration form will be available on the ACT Government's dedicated northside hospital transition website and supported by a staff hotline to make it as easy as possible for teams to transition.

Our intention is to transition the entire workforce, but we understand that some team members may choose not to join Canberra Health Services.

As most people are employed under the shared ACT Public Sector (ACTPS) Enterprise Agreement, entitlements and employment conditions will be unchanged. Team members who are not under the ACTPS Enterprise Agreement will be supported by an employment case manager who will guide them through the process. These team members will be encouraged to contact the transition team as soon as possible to work through details and ensure there are no interruptions to their pay.

Under the terms of the draft legislation, Calvary Public Hospital would make the final pay run for staff on 6 July 2023, with the first ACTPS pay run being made on Thursday 20 July 2023.

Transitioning to Canberra Health Services will bring no change to current work arrangements (location, shifts or entitlements). All published rosters will be honoured, with any changes made through direct agreement with individual employees.

Team members who are currently employed by both Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital will need to contact the transition team to make arrangements to move to a single contract.

It is our clear intention that team members will be no worse off as a result of this transition.

I can assure you that the safety and wellbeing of team members and patients will be the top priority of Canberra Health Services. A dedicated team has been established to support staff and to provide continuity of services during the transition.

Canberra Health Services will work to ensure that all employees are informed of these changes and will provide opportunities for staff to ask questions and share concerns.

You can help by advising your contacts across the ACT's public health services about the different ways to find information about the transition and contact details for Canberra Health Services:

- Information is available at www.act.gov.au/northsidehospital. FAQs on this website will be updated regularly based on staff feedback and questions.
- Staff can call the dedicated hotline on (02) 5124 0400 which operates Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Saturday and Sunday between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Staff are encouraged to attend one of the forums to be held by Canberra Health Services.
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- If further assistance is needed, staff can email CHS.northsidehospitalenquiries@act.gov.au to connect with a member of the Canberra Health Services transition team.

Throughout the transition, Canberra Health Services will provide regular updates and briefings to our industrial partners. Your feedback and insights throughout the transition will help to ensure we are providing valuable information to staff and hearing their concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the transition, please feel free to contact my office directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Stephen-Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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