



Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Via: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

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**ASMOF ACT – Submission to Inquiry into the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government)
Amendment Bill 2023**

The Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (ASMOF) is the Doctors Union representing over 17,000 Registered Medical Practitioners including staff specialists, post graduate fellows, clinical academics, career medical officers and doctors in training (DiTs), including interns, resident medical officers, and registrars. The Australian Capital Territory Branch has members in both Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital (formerly Calvary Bruce Public Hospital).

As is incumbent on the Doctors Union, ASMOF has and will continue to advocate for our members' interests, rights, entitlements in the pursuit of a world class public health system.

As such, ASMOF ACT, as endorsed by ASMOF Federal Executive, **formally opposes the [Australian Capital Territory \(Self-Government\) Amendment Bill 2023](#)** - the enabling power for the inquiry into the Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023 (ACT) (the 'Inquiry').

Since May 2023, ASMOF ACT has been working closely with our members at Calvary Bruce and the ACT Government to assess prevailing attitudes regarding the takeover, as well as offering industrial support and sharing updates with our members as the situation evolves.

We have advocated strongly for our members' best interests, rights, and entitlements throughout this time.

ASMOF ACT opposes the Bill and the associated Inquiry for the following reasons:

- 1) There are no material benefits to medical officers in the ACT. In fact, the Bill will place additional strain on an already fractured workforce, consuming significant resources, with no clear evidence as to the benefit for the community or workers.
- 2) Decisions regarding the management and resourcing of public hospitals should be made in consultation with ACT stakeholders, including ASMOF ACT. This should be done by the ACT Government.
- 3) This Bill will increase uncertainty surrounding the transition to the North Canberra Hospital, leaving workers in the dark, causing ongoing confusion.
- 4) This Bill will further undermine public confidence in the ACT Government and Canberra's public hospitals.
- 5) This Bill will exacerbate existing issues with the recruitment and retention of medical officers in the ACT.



Recruitment and retention of doctors in public hospitals has been a long-standing issue for the ACT, and the resources any 'Inquiry' would require can be better allocated towards improving the working conditions and culture within Canberra's public hospitals.

By reallocating these resources Canberra Health Services will be supported to execute its [vision](#) – a workforce that values its workers, enforces outstanding working conditions, and empowers its doctors to deliver exceptional health care services that are trusted by the community.

Faithfully,

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President, ASMOF (ACT Branch)
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