

QIC buys Evolution Healthcare for between \$700m and \$800m

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Queensland Investment Corporation has purchased Evolution Healthcare from Pacific Equity Partners for between \$700m and \$800m.

It is understood that a deal was signed on Thursday night.

QIC was advised by Rothschild & Co and Cameron Partners while PEP was advised by Stanton Road Partners.

It is understood that QIC fended off competition from Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets to buy the New Zealand-based hospital operator.

Also in the mix earlier was understood to be Morrison & Co.

Advising on the sales process has been Stanton Road Partners.

QIC, a Queensland government-owned investment company, in 2019 took a 75 per cent stake in Nexus Hospitals, Australia's second-biggest day hospital platform and it is expected that the acquisition will be to bulk up the Nexus business.

Nexus controls a portfolio of day and short-stay hospitals across six states and territories.

Evolution Healthcare has about five private hospitals in New Zealand and a number of day surgeries.

It was bought by PEP in 2019 for about \$300m after being founded in 2011 by Ben Thynne, who also founded the Australian private hospital operator Healthe Care.

The sale by PEP comes after it this year purchased the Healthe Care Australian portfolio of acute care hospitals for about \$400m.

QIC was short listed in the contest for the asset in recent weeks.

Binding bids were due this month.

In the final stages, it is understood that the contest came down to just QIC and MIRA.

December has proved to be a big month for PEP.

On Thursday, it announced a deal to sell the majority of LifeHealthcare to Ebos for \$1.17bn.

The private equity firm PEP purchased LifeHealthcare in 2018 for \$211m including debt when it was listed.

Last week, it announced a \$700m-plus sale of AutoPacific Group to GUD Holdings, also advised by Macquarie Capital.

Next out the door is set to be a half share in the smart metering business Intellihub, expected to be sold for about \$1bn early next week.