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By email

Dear Sir or Madam

Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia Limited (HCF) application for authorisation AA1000402—interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from HCF. The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

HCF seeks authorisation for a period of ten years to allow it to open its own dental clinics in locations that may overlap with dentists who participate in HCF's More For Teeth program. Under the More For Teeth program, HCF specifies the maximum fees for a number of dental services to be charged by participating dentists.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's website www.acc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Request for submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to HCF's application for authorisation, please do so by **13 November 2017**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject 'AA1000402 – HCF – submission'.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information

20 October 2017	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
30 October 2017	Public consultation process begins.
13 November 2017	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
November 2017	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.

January/February 2017	Draft determination.
February 2017	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
March 2017	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah Ransom on (02) 6243 1255 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Adjudication Branch

List of interested parties consulted

Consumers Health Forum of Australia

ACT Health

Australian Dental Association

Australian Dental Industry Association

Bupa

Commonwealth Department of Health

Medibank

NIB

NSW Department of Health

NT Department of Health

Private Healthcare Australia

Queensland Health

SA Department of Health

Victorian Department of Health

WA Department of Health