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Interested Party
By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited (RDAA) application for re-authorisation AA1000427—draft determination & interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for re-authorisation lodged by the RDAA on 31 July 2018.

The RDAA is seeking re-authorisation for five years to collectively negotiate with state and territory health departments, Local Hospital Networks, Primary Health Networks and Hospital and Health Services, the terms of contracts for general practitioners and generalist visiting medical officers in rural areas.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant re-authorisation for five years. However, in light of the fact that collective bargaining under RDAA's current authorisation appears to have been operating well and no interested parties have raised concerns about the proposed new aspects of the authorisation, the ACCC also invites submissions on whether it would be appropriate to grant re-authorisation for a longer period of 10 years.

The ACCC has also decided to grant interim authorisation to enable the existing negotiations with the various state-wide entities to continue while the ACCC is considering the substantive application.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **30 November 2018**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000427 – RDAA – submission".

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called (see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases the applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination. If a conference is called in this matter it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **23 November 2018**.

Timetable

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

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
31 July 2018	Lodgement of application
10 August 2018	Public consultation process begins.
31 August 2018	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
September 2018	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
9 November 2018	Draft determination and interim authorisation granted.
December 2018	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
December 2018	Final Determination

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 Luke Griffin on 02 6243 1114.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication