



Our ref: AA1000671
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Dear Interested Party

St. Luke's Medical and Hospital Benefits Association application for authorisation AA1000671 – interested party consultation

On 8 May 2024, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from St. Luke's Medical and Hospital Benefits Association (**St Lukes**). St Lukes provided the ACCC with further information regarding its application on 13 June 2024. This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

St Lukes is seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Authorisation would give it legal protection from competition laws to enter into and give effect to certain pricing arrangement provisions in agreements with dental practitioners via the St Lukes Gap Free Network. St Lukes is seeking authorisation for 10 years.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

St Lukes has also requested interim authorisation to allow it to commence entering into agreements with potential dental partner providers prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation.

Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **28 June 2024**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account. Submissions in relation to interim authorisation should also be provided by **28 June 2024**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Rebecca Ryan via the details at the end of this letter.

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register. (see [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register](#) for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
8 May 2024	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
14 June 2024	Public consultation process begins.
28 June 2024	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
July 2024	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
By August 2024	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
August/September 2024	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October 2024	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Ryan on (02) 6243 1300 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tess Macrae
Director
Competition Exemptions