



Our ref: AA1000671
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12 September 2024

Dear Interested Party

**Re: St Luke's Medical and Hospital Benefits Association application for authorisation
AA1000671 – draft determination & interim authorisation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by St Luke's Medical and Hospital Benefits Association (**St Lukes**) on 8 May 2024.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 5 years. The ACCC also granted interim authorisation to St Lukes and participating dentists to enter into, but not give effect to, the pricing arrangement provisions while the ACCC is considering the substantive application.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Next steps

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 **26 September 2024**. 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.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one 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 its draft determination. If a conference is called 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 **26 September 2024** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

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
8 May 2024	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
June–July 2024	Public consultation process.
12 September 2024	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
26 September 2024	Public consultation closes on draft determination.
September/October 2024	Applicant responds to interested party submissions.
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

Naomi Menon
Director
Competition Exemptions