



Our ref: AA1000480
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2 April 2020

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Dear Interested Party

National Pharmaceutical Services Association's application for authorisation AA1000480—interim authorisation decision and interested party consultation

On 27 March 2020, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (**NPSA**).

The application for authorisation

The application was lodged on behalf of the NPSA, its current and future members (together **the Applicants**) and any Community Services Obligation (**CSO**) Distributors to coordinate to stabilise the supply chain for medicines and pharmacy products, which is currently disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Applicants seek authorisation to have discussions, enter into arrangements, or engage in conduct (excluding sharing of price-information) for the purpose of facilitating the supply of, and access to, medicines and pharmacy products (the **Proposed Conduct**).

The Applicants have sought interim authorisation for the Proposed Conduct, as well as final authorisation for a period of 12 months from the date of final determination.

A copy of the application for authorisation is available on the [ACCC's Public Register](#).

On 31 March 2020, the ACCC granted interim authorisation for the Proposed Conduct. The interim authorisation allows the Applicants to immediately engage in the Proposed Conduct while the ACCC progresses its determination. The interim authorisation is subject to a condition that the NPSA regularly update the ACCC regarding any material developments in relation to the Proposed Conduct as the COVID-19 position evolves.

A copy of the ACCC's interim authorisation decision is also available on the [ACCC's Public Register](#).

Submissions

The ACCC is now conducting a public consultation process on the Proposed Conduct authorised in its interim authorisation decision, and on the substantive application for final authorisation, and invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the Proposed Conduct.

We recognise that the COVID-19 situation may be causing disruptions to your normal operations. For this reason we are taking a flexible approach to receiving feedback on the Proposed Conduct. We will accept written submissions at any time up until **23 April 2020**, however you may wish to contact us by phone to discuss your views before this deadline.

If you wish to provide a written submission, please do so by email to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject 'National Pharmaceutical Services Association-AA1000480'.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Ellie Dwyer on 03 9290 1874 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including a record of oral submissions, will be placed on the [ACCC's public register](#) subject to any request for exclusion (see the [ACCC's Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#)).

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.

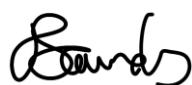
Timetable

An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the ACCC's public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
27 March 2020	Lodgement of application
31 March 2020	ACCC decision on interim authorisation
2 April 2020	Consultation on the application commences
23 April 2020	Closing date for submissions
14 May 2020	Applicants respond to issues raised in public consultation process
June/July 2020	ACCC draft determination
July/August 2020	Public consultation on the draft determination including any conference if called
September 2020	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 Ellie Dwyer on 03 9290 1874 or by email at adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Joe Saunders
Director
Adjudication