



**Austin & Repatriation
Medical Centre**

July 26th 2002

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Chadwick

**Re: Application for Authorisation Nos A90811 & A90812
Lodged by Health Purchasing Victoria**

As per our letter of December 21st 2001 and subsequent to the ACCC draft determination, the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre (ARMC) supports the application for authorisation from Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV), for the calling and awarding of a tender by HPV on behalf of various Victorian Health Services, for the exclusive acquisition of temporary agency nursing staff, from suppliers of agency nursing staff by such health services.

We support the ACCC draft determination and believe that this tender has likely public benefits in that it will:

- Provide a means to control casual nurse staffing costs
- Provide some certainty in planning for casual staff costs
- Will formalise administrative arrangements between health service and agencies resulting in improved efficiency and cost savings
- Will provide standards measures of usage and demand which will assist in future workforce planning
- Establish some standardised measures of performance
- Consolidate the items in the DHS directive into a contract
- Provide a formal mechanism for review of price

Yours sincerely,

Mark Petty

Mark Petty
Executive Director - Nursing & Ambulatory Services

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