



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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SECRETARY

Mr Scott Gregson
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Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
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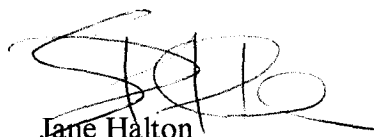
Dear Mr Gregson,

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2006 regarding the application for revocation of authorisation A90954 and substitution of new authorisation A91011 lodged by Canberra After Hours Medical Locum Service (CALMS). I have noted the information you have provided.

At this time, the Department of Health and Ageing does not wish to make a submission in response to the Draft Determination. However you may wish to note that in recent months, the Department has been made aware of some concerns about the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claiming arrangements for emergency attendances after-hours. The Department of Health and Ageing is currently working with Medicare Australia, GP peak bodies and the National Association for Medical Deputising, of which CALMS is a member, with a view to improving the operation of MBS emergency after-hours items and their applicability to medical deputising services, in particular with regard to after-hours out of surgery attendances.

While the exact nature of these changes is yet to be finalised, it is expected that changes arising from these discussions could come into effect in early 2007.

Yours sincerely



Jane Halton
Secretary

/ November 2006

