



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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Canberra ACT 2601

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Our Ref: CB00006  
Contact Officer: Ilona Balint  
Contact Phone: 02 6243 1113

22 November 2007

Dr U Boffa  
Medical Director  
HBA  
Health Insurance Administration  
Reply Paid 4463  
Melbourne VIC 8060

Dear Dr Boffa

**Collective bargaining notification CB00006 lodged by the Wangaratta Anaesthesia Group on 21 November 2007**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received the above collective bargaining notification lodged by a group of anaesthetists who are members of the Wangaratta Anaesthesia Group, proposing to collectively negotiate with HBA in relation to anaesthesia fees. Specifically, the group proposes to collectively negotiate a value above the scheduled fee for the provision of no-gap billing to members of the HBA Fund.

The ACCC invites you to comment on the notification as the target of the proposed collective bargaining group. Enclosed is a summary of the collective bargaining notification process.

A copy of the notification and supporting submission is enclosed. Other documents concerning the notification will be made available on the ACCC's website <[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)>.

**Request for submission**

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed collective arrangements. In making your submission, you may wish to focus on the types of benefits and detriments set out in the enclosure.

In addition, the ACCC would appreciate if you could provide the following information:

- details of HBA's Ezyclaim scheme and how it compares with other funds' no-gap arrangements;
- HBA's share of private health insurance membership in Victoria; and  
details of the current relationship with the Wangaratta Anaesthesia Group

Please provide your submission by **30 November 2007**. Your submission should be addressed to:

The General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Submissions can also be lodged by email to [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au) or by facsimile on (02) 6243 1211.

Alternatively, comments can be provided orally.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the notification in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register.

Should you have any query, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6243 1049 or Ilona Balint on 02 6243 1113 or [ilona.balint@acc.gov.au](mailto:ilona.balint@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Isabelle Arnaud  
Director, Adjudication

### Indicative timetable

<b>21 November 2007</b>	Lodgement of notification and supporting submission completed.
<b>22 November 2007</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>30 November 2007</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties
<b>5 December 2007</b>	Notifying parties respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
<b>On or before 18 December 2007</b>	ACCC releases its assessment of the notification
<b>19 December 2007</b>	Absent ACCC objection, protection afforded by collective bargaining notification comes into effect.