



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

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

22 November 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

**Collective bargaining notification CB00006 lodged by the Wangaratta Anaesthesia Group on 21 November 2007 - interested party consultation**

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. 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.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the collective bargaining notification, please do so by **30 November 2007**.

If you wish to lodge a submission, please address your submission 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, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Ilona Balint on (02) 6243 1113 to organise a suitable time.

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.

Please also advise if you do not wish to receive future correspondence about this matter. You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the notification.

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 me on 02 6243 1049 or Ilona Balint on (02) 6243 1113

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.

No	Name
1.	Australian Medical Association
2.	Australian Medical Association (Vic)
3.	Australian Consumers' Association
4.	Consumers Health Forum
5.	Australian Private Hospitals Association
6.	Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
7.	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
8.	Catholic Health Australia
9.	Private Health insurance Administration Council
10.	Department of Human Services
11.	Commonwealth Dept of Health and Ageing
12.	Wangaratta Private Hospital
13.	Northeast Health Wangaratta
14.	Australian Health Insurance Association
15.	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists