



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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Our Ref: A91078
Contact Officer: Sharon Clancy
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17 December 2007

*This letter, with enclosures,
was posted to the
attached list of
interested parties.*

SC

18/12/07

Dear

Application for authorisation A91078 lodged by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited- interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from the Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited (RDAA). The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Please find attached a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

The RDAA and its constituent state associations seek authorisation to collectively negotiate with state/territory health departments the terms of contracts for visiting medical officers in rural areas, particularly with respect to payments for services provided to public patients and for on-call services. It is not intended that the RDAA negotiate on behalf of medical specialists.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is enclosed. It is also available on the ACCC's website <www.accc.gov.au>.

Request for submissions

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 arrangements. Additionally, the ACCC would be interested in your views on the following issues:

- the current arrangements or process for the negotiation of contracts for visiting medical officers
- the role of general practitioners in providing visiting medical officer services in rural areas.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the application for authorisation, please do so by **23 January 2008**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Sharon Clancy on (02) 6243 1217 or me on (02) 6243 1049 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).

Timetable

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

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 7 December 2007 | Lodgement of application |
| 17 December 2007 | Public consultation process begins |
| 23 January 2008 | Closing date for submissions from interested parties |
| January / February 2008 | Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process |
| February 2008 | Draft determination |
| March / April 2008 | Final determination |

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 possible, 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.

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 Sharon Clancy on (02) 6243 1217 or me on (02) 6243 1049.

Yours sincerely

Isabelle Arnaud
Director
Adjudication Branch

Application for authorisation A91078 lodged by RDAA

List of interested parties - 18 December 2007

ACT Health
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Australian Consumer Association
Australian General Practice Network
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association
Australian Medical Association
Australian Medical Association (ACT)
Australian Medical Association (NSW)
Australian Medical Association (NT)
Australian Medical Association (QLD)
Australian Medical Association (SA)
Australian Medical Association (TAS)
Australian Medical Association (VIC)
Australian Medical Association (WA)
Australian Private Hospital Association
Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group
Australian Rural Health Education Network
Australian Society of Anaesthetists
Catholic Health Australia
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Consumer Health Forum
Department of Health (New South Wales)
Department of Health (South Australia)
Department of Health (Western Australia)
Department of Health and Community Services (Northern Territory)
Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)
Department of Human Services (Victoria)
Health Complaints Commission Tasmania
Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia
Health Services Commissioner (Vic)
National Rural Health Alliance
Office of the Health Services Commissioner
Queensland Health
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Rural Doctors Association of NSW
Rural Doctors Association of NT
Rural Doctors Association of QLD
Rural Doctors Association of SA
Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania
Rural Doctors Association of Victoria
Rural Doctors Association of WA
Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association