



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

GPO Box 520
Melbourne Vic 3001

Level 35, The Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

tel: (03) 9290 1800
fax: (03) 9663 3699

www.accc.gov.au

Our Ref: CB00004
Contact Officer: Louise Hird
Contact Phone: 03 9290 1484

17 September 2007

Mr Felix Pintado
Chief Executive
Latrobe Regional Hospital
Princes Highway
PO Box 424
TARALGON WEST VIC 3844

Dear Mr Pintado

Collective bargaining notification CB00004 lodged by the Australian Medical Association (Vic) Pty Ltd on 17 September 2007

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received the above collective bargaining notification lodged by the AMA (Vic) on behalf of a group of medical practitioners proposing to collectively negotiate their conditions of engagement (including price) with Latrobe Regional Hospital.

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.

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 Latrobe Regional Hospital services and facilities, size and catchment area

- details of the current medical workforce at the hospital (size, specialty, whether employees or VMOs)
- current VMO arrangements at Latrobe Regional Hospital, including level of negotiations for those arrangements
- other hospitals or health facilities providing services in competition with Latrobe Regional Hospital
- whether there are medical workforce shortages at Latrobe Regional Hospital and how those issues are addressed

Please provide your submission by **27 September 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 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 Louise Hird on 03 9290 1484 or louise.hird@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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Director, Adjudication

Indicative timetable

17 September 2007	Lodgement of notification and supporting submission completed.
17 September 2007	Public consultation process begins.
27 September 2007	Closing date for submissions from interested parties
4 October 2007	Notifying parties respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
On or before 12 October 2007	ACCC releases its assessment of the notification
15 October 2007	Absent ACCC objection, protection afforded by collective bargaining notification comes into effect.