

Bourke, Monica

From: Warwick Hough [whough@ama.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2008 3:50 PM
To: Bourke, Monica
Subject: Re: AMA application for authorisation - further submission [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Monica

Thank you for the attached documents. Given their late timing I have tried to keep our comments in response brief.

I have quickly reviewed the attached. I do not believe the VHIA meeting notes add anything to what the VHIA put in their submission to the ACCC. I believe the comments outlined in our submission in response thoroughly address what has been put by the VHIA. The argument that there will be a *ratcheting up effect* is a spurious one. The AMA application consistently highlights that state/territory health departments will only enter into collective VMO bargaining arrangements for rural GPs if they believe that this process will deliver a better outcome with respect to the delivery of rural health services. The ability of the AMA to lift the "price" of medical services in the collective bargaining process is significantly curtailed by this reality.

In relation to the CHA submission, I note that they have not objected to the application. It is the AMA's strong view, as outlined in our application, that a collective bargaining process will deliver strong benefits to patients by allowing the development of sustainable VMO arrangements for rural GPs. We again stress the point that there is no requirement for health departments to enter into a collective agreement. A collective agreement will only be reached where all parties are satisfied that it meets their needs.

In relation to CHA comments that negotiations should be nationally consistent and coordinated, I note that the delivery of public hospital services is a state/territory responsibility. Our application envisages collective negotiation taking place at the state/territory level.

Given the late timing of these submissions, I hope that they will not delay consideration of the AMA application. If you feel that the AMA needs to further address any of the points raised in either of the attached documents, please advise me accordingly.

Yours sincerely

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11/11/2008

"Bourke, Monica" <Monica.Bourke@accc.gov.au>

To "Warwick Hough" <whough@ama.com.au>

07/11/2008 01:46 PM

cc

Subject AMA application for authorisation - further submission
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Warwick

For your information, the ACCC has received a late submission with respect to the AMA's application for authorisation. Please find at attached.

<<A91100 - Australian Medical Association Limited & Ors - Submission by Consumers Health Forum of Australia - 20081028.PDF>>

Also, the ACCC met with representatives from the VHIA regarding the application. For your information, please find attached a file note from the meeting. It is also available on the ACCC's website.

<<A91100 - Australian Medical Association Limited & Ors - Record of Meeting between ACCC and VHIA - 27.10.08.PDF>>

Regards,
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11/11/2008