

RURAL DENTAL ACTION GROUP

HEALTHY MOUTHS ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTHY BODIES

Co Founder: Marj Bollinger
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11th August 2008

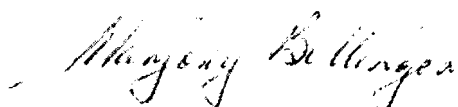
SUBMISSION TO
The General Manager Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumers Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

SUBJECT: Australian Dental Association Inc application A91094 & A91095
-interested party consultation

Following receipt of correspondence dated 28th July 2008 containing application for the above authorisation, and consultation with members of our group, it was agreed that the Rural Dental Action Group advise we are in support of the application.

Please find attached, for your information, background details regarding our group.

We would greatly appreciate to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages.



Marjory Bollinger
On behalf of :
Rural Dental Action Group

Compiled by:
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BACKGROUND ATTACHMENT

The Rural Dental Action Group was established in Orange on 13th August, 2004 at a well attended public meeting to:

- (a) Identify, and find solutions to problems being encountered by members of the community in accessing services provided by the Public Dental Clinics throughout rural Australia.
- (b) To inform all levels of Government of our findings and ensure Government commitments are met and adequate services are provided in future.
- (c) Lobby all levels of Government to ensure the University intake numbers are increased to train sufficient number of dentists to adequately provide service to eligible members of the community through the public and private services.
- (d) To incorporate greater use of dental therapists and hygienists

The RDAG was formed due to the widespread community concern about the lack of access, which eligible citizens have to Public Dental Clinics for basic dental care.

The Rural Dental Action Group is a not for profit community based group networking with:

- Combined Pensioners and Superannuant Association Branches in Bathurst, Cobar, Dubbo, Molong and Young.
- The Australian Dental Association.
- New South Wales Council of Social Services.
- Mid North Coast Area Health Service.
- The Illawarra Dental Health Action Group.
- National Rural Health Alliance.
- The Association for the promotion of Oral Health.



- New South Wales Farmers Assn.
- Charles Sturt University have publicly credited RDAG for their assistance in securing funding for their Dental School planned to open in 2009.

The Rural Dental Action Group Executive have discussed the issues of dental care provision with a wide range of members of the community who access both private and public dental systems, dentists, other service professionals and dental educators over the last 4 years. Through this process we have gained a great deal of knowledge about oral health and the needs of the community in relation to dental care.