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The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

Attention – Sharon Clancy

**REF: Draft Determination of the Application for authorisation lodged
by the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Limited.**

I write to you with respect to the above draft determination.

The ability for AMA NSW to collectively bargain on behalf of contracted VMOs will only serve as to benefit the NSW public health system.

VMOs play a vitally important and integral role with their provision of services to the public health system. Through experience and knowledge, VMOs enable NSW Health to better provide a quality health service to its community.

The motivation for VMOs to work in the public health arena is not a financial decision, but a moral one. Through this provision they are in essence, giving back to one from which they once took.

In the past, VMOs have relied on AMA NSW to collectively bargain on their behalf. Despite the lack of governing legislation or authority, it would be difficult if not impossible to provide evidence of any anti-competitive behaviour. Considering the current shortage of skilled doctors working in the public health sector, all attempts should be made to attract Specialists into the system.

AMA Queensland agrees with the consideration by the ACCC in that all the circumstances of the agreement for which authorisation is sought is likely to result in a public benefit that would outweigh the detriment to the public constituted by any lessening of competition arising from the arrangement.

As stated in the draft determination, AMA Queensland fully supports the decision by the ACCC with its proposition to grant authorisation.

Yours Sincerely

(Mr) Kerry G Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer