



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

Our Ref: A91100
Contact Officer: Monica Bourke
Contact Phone: 02 6243 1351

22 August 2008

*This letter, with attachments
was sent to the following
list of IP's on 22 08 08
MB.*

GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601
23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601
tel: (02) 6243 1111
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www.accc.gov.au

Dear

**Australian Medical Association Limited and state/territory AMA organisations
application for authorisation A91100
- interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from the Australian Medical Association Limited (AMA) and the AMA state/territory bodies in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania (all referred to as AMA). The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

The AMA is seeking authorisation to collectively negotiate with relevant state/territory health departments, the terms of contracts for rural general practitioners providing services as Visiting Medical Officers in public hospitals and health facilities in rural and remote areas of Australia (except New South Wales).

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.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to AMA's application for authorisation, please do so by **12 September 2008**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Monica Bourke on (02) 6243 1351 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.

19 August 2008	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
22 August 2008	Public consultation process begins.
12 September 2008	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
30 September 2008	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
October/November 2008	Draft determination.
November/December 2008	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
January/February 2009	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 you are able to 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 Monica Bourke on (02) 6243 1351.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Palisi
Director
Adjudication Branch

Application for authorisation A91100 - List of interested parties consulted

Australian Consumer Association
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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
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)
Health Complaints Commission Tasmania
Health Services Commissioner (Vic)
National Rural Health Alliance
Office of the Health Services Commissioner
Queensland Health
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
NSW Rural Doctors Network
Rural Doctors Association of Australia
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 WA
Rural Health Workforce Australia
Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association
Victorian Healthcare Association Ltd
ACT Health
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Australian General Practice Network
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association
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 Human Services (Victoria)
Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Rural Doctors Workforce Agency - SA
Rural Doctors Association of Victoria