



# Department of Health

Secretary

28 AUG 2009

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Ms Joanne Palisi  
Director  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Palisi,

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 August 2009 regarding the University of Melbourne's application to your organisation on behalf of current and future members of the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT) Consortium.

One of Victoria's key workforce priorities is to increase the availability of health professionals in areas where people need services. The application acknowledges several benefits for the implementation of the policies that could potentially assist with a streamlined medical student selection process. Specifically:

- Applicants benefit from not being required to submit multiple applications and attend multiple interviews at considerable expense.
- Medical Schools benefit from the reduced cost of conducting multiple interviews, which are expensive and resource intensive. This saving in resources could be more productively transferred to teaching, research and administration activities.
- A potential increase in cross-border applications as, without the policies, applicants are likely to limit the number of interstate medical schools to which they apply, to limit the cost of travel and accommodation. Being interviewed once eliminates a potential barrier to interstate competition, and provides more choice to students.

It is noted that the proposed changes in the application will not impact upon the supply of the medical workforce, and will still provide an opportunity for individual medical schools to give greater weighting to specific selection criteria, such as prioritising rural students. As such, Victoria has no objection to the proposed application.



Should you require further information, Victoria's workforce contact is Ms Kim Sykes, Director, Service and Workforce Planning Branch on telephone: (03) 9096 7716 or email: [kim.sykes@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:kim.sykes@dhs.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



**FRAN THORN**  
Secretary