



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Contact Officer: Erin Donohue
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9 June 2010

[Address]

Dear [Salutation]

**Vision Group Holdings Limited application for authorisation A91217
- draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Vision Group Holdings Limited on 29 March 2010.

Vision Group is seeking authorisation to enable it, its employees and ophthalmologists engaged as contractors at Vision Group clinics to discuss and, if relevant, agree and implement fees to be charged to patients for ophthalmology services supplied at Vision Group clinics.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached, including a summary of its reasons. For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for five years.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicants or any interested party may request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'. A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination, you must notify the ACCC in writing by **25 June 2010**.

Alternatively, you are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **25 June 2010**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

29 March 2010	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
7 April 2010	Public consultation process begins.
9 June 2010	Draft determination issued.
25 June 2010	Deadline for requesting a conference or providing a submission in response to the draft determination.
July/August 2010	Final determination.

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 Erin Donohue on (02) 6243 1291.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch

**Vision Group Holdings Limited application for authorisation A91217
Draft Determination - Interested Parties Consulted**

1. Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association
2. Australian Health Insurance Association Ltd
3. Australian Health Service Alliance
4. Australian Medical Association
5. Australian Medical Council
6. Australian Institute of Eye Surgery
7. Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
8. Australian Neurovision Centre
9. Brisbane Eye Clinic, QLD
10. Chatswood Grove Eye Clinic, NSW
11. CHOICE
12. Consumers Health Forum of Australia
13. Department of Health and Ageing
14. Department of Health (ACT)
15. Department of Health (New South Wales)
16. Department of Health (South Australia)
17. Department of Health (Queensland)
18. Department of Health (Western Australia)
19. Department of Health and Community Services (Northern Territory)
20. Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)
21. Eye Surgery Associates, VIC
22. Gordon Eye Centre, NSW
23. Laser Sight
24. Optometrists Association of Australia
25. Orthoptic Association of Australia
26. Queensland Eye Hospital
27. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
28. Southern Ophthalmology, NSW
29. The Eye Clinic, NSW
30. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
31. The Neuro-Ophthalmology Society of Australia
32. Visionary Eye Specialists, NSW