



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

FILE No:
DOC:
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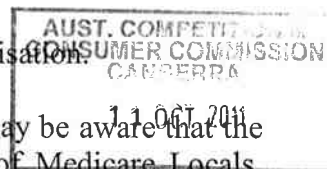
Dear Dr Chadwick

Re : CALMS application for revocation of authorisation A91092 and substitution of new authorisation A91276 - interested party consultation

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 2011 seeking the views of the Commonwealth in respect of the application made by CALMS to continue to apply a capped fee schedule for after hours primary medical care in the ACT.

I note you advise CALMS has also sought interim authorisation from the expiration of the current authorisation on 31 October 2011 until the outcome of the application is determined.

The Commonwealth has no objection to the granting of an interim authorisation.



To assist the Commission in considering the longer term request, you may be aware that the Australian Government's health reform agenda includes the creation of Medicare Locals. The ACT Medicare Local was announced as one of the nineteen Medicare Locals which started operations in July this year. Two further sets or tranches of Medicare Locals are scheduled to commence in January 2012 and July 2012 respectively.

One of the specific requirements of a Medicare Local is that it undertakes to meet the goal of providing all Australians, regardless of where they live, with accessible and effective after hours primary care services. More detail about the activities required of a Medicare Local is available at the *Medicare Locals – Guidelines for after hours primary care responsibilities until 30 June 2013* www.yourhealth.gov.au/medicarelocals

In terms of funding, the Australian Government will provide each Medicare Local with an amount to meet their after hours responsibilities, after assessing the proposal/s of individual organisations. The funding is capped but each Medicare Local has flexibility to tailor its after hours primary care service provision arrangements according to local needs and where there are priority gaps in existing services.

The effect of granting CALMS' application (or not) would need to be considered by the ACT Medicare Local in formulating its after hours primary care planning. I would like to suggest

therefore that you may care to include the ACT Medicare Local as another potentially interested party.

Contact details are as follows:

Mr Steve Sant
Chief Executive Officer
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6287 8099

I hope this is of assistance. If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact Vicki Murphy, Assistant Secretary, Primary Health Care Infrastructure and Support Branch on 6289 9330 or at Vicki.murphy@health.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Mark Booth
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Primary and Ambulatory Division

6 October 2011