

Our Ref: 48507
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**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

31 July 2012

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Mr Aldo Nicotra
Partner
Johnson Winter & Slattery Lawyers
Level 20 Bond St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Nicotra

**St Vincent's Health Australia & Ors Applications for Authorisation (A91295 - A91297)
– Draft Determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by St Vincent's Health Australia & Ors on 23 March 2012.

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 ten years. The ACCC's assessment is set out in Chapter four on pages 10 to 25.

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 **14 August 2012**.

Alternatively, you are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **17 August 2012**.

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.

23 March 2012	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
5 April 2012	Public consultation process begins.
3 May 2012	Closing date for submissions for interested parties
14 May 2012	Applicants respond to issues raised in the public consultation process
31 July 2012	Draft determination.
August 2012	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
September 2012	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 Anna Giannakos on (03) 9290 6920 or by email anna.giannakos@accc.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Mergers and Adjudication Group