



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

Our Ref: A91334
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12 December 2012

Dear Madam/Sir

Australian Medical Association application for authorisation A91334 – draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) on 11 September 2012.

Please see the ACCC's publication [Authorisation process - the basics](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Broadly, the AMA is seeking authorisation to allow all general practitioners (GPs) that practise in a single practices with defined business structures to engage in:

- (a) intra-practice price setting;
- (b) collective bargaining by single practices in relation to engagement as Visiting Medical Officers to public hospitals; and
- (c) collective bargaining by single practices in relation to the provision of services to Medicare Locals.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

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 Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **25 January 2013**.

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 January 2013**.

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. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

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.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
11 September 2012	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
13 September 2012	Public consultation process begins.
12 December 2012	Draft determination.
25 January 2013	Due date for submissions in relation to the draft determination.
February 2013	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 Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch