



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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28 August 2013

Ms Jenny Johnson  
CEO  
Rural Doctors Association of Australia

**By email: [ceo@rdaa.com.au](mailto:ceo@rdaa.com.au)**

Dear Ms Johnson

**Rural Doctors Association of Australia application for authorisation A91376 - draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for re-authorisation lodged by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia.

**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 revoke authorisation A91078 and grant authorisation A91376 in substitution. The substitute authorisation is for the Rural Doctors Association of Australia and its constituent state associations to collectively negotiate with state and territory health departments, the terms of contracts for general practitioners or rural generalist visiting medical officers in rural areas.

The ACCC proposes to authorise this conduct for five years.

The ACCC does not propose to extend authorisation to the RDAA to collectively negotiate with Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks.

**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 **Wednesday, 18 September 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 **Wednesday, 11 September 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.

<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Stage in assessment process</b>
<b>7 May 2013</b>	Lodgement of application.
<b>14 May 2013</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>29 May 2013</b>	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
<b>7 June 2013</b>	Closing date for submissions on substantive application.
<b>13 June 2013</b>	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
<b>28 August 2013</b>	Draft determination.
<b>September 2013</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>October 2013</b>	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 David Hatfield on 02 6243 1266 or at

[david.hatfield@accc.gov.au](mailto:david.hatfield@accc.gov.au), or Gina D'Ettorre on 03 9290 1483 or at [gina.dettorre@accc.gov.au](mailto:gina.dettorre@accc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal line.

Dr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch