



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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8 November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Application for revocation of authorisation A91100 and substitution of new authorisation A91392 – interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) is currently conducting a consultation process on an application for re-authorisation (application for revocation and substitution) received from the Australian Medical Association Limited (AMA) and the AMA state and territory bodies in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania (collectively referred to as the AMA) on 31 October 2013.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a potentially interested party, to comment on the application. 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.

Application for 're-authorisation'

The AMA is seeking re-authorisation to continue to collectively negotiate with relevant state and territory health departments, the terms of contracts for rural general practitioners providing services as Visiting Medical Officers in public hospitals and health facilities in rural and remote areas of Australia (except for NSW).

The ACCC previously granted authorisation for the arrangements on 10 December 2008 until 28 February 2014.

A copy of the application is available on the ACCC's website www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

Further, the ACCC invites you to outline your general experience of the collective bargaining arrangements during the term of the previous authorisation. The ACCC would also welcome your views on the public benefits and detriments you consider have actually resulted from the collective bargaining during the previous authorisation period.

If you intend to provide a submission on the application for re-authorisation please do so by **Friday, 22 November 2013**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Gina D'Ettorre to organise a suitable time – contact details are provided below.

Submissions, including a record of oral 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 progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
31 October 2013	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
8 November 2013	Public consultation process begins.
22 November 2013	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
29 October 2013	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
December 2013/Jan 2014	Draft determination and public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
January/February 2014	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
February 2014	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
February 2014	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application[s] at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to, please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

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 me on 03 9290 1893, or at marie.dalins@accc.gov.au, or Gina D'Ettorre on 03 9290 1483 or at gina.dettorre@accc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie Dalins', is positioned above the printed name.

Marie Dalins
Director
Adjudication Branch