8 March 2013

By email

Dear Sir / Madam

**Australian Society of Ophthalmologists Incorporated application for authorisation (A91360) - interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists Incorporated (the ASO). The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

The ASO is seeking authorisation on behalf of its current and future members to make and give effect to contracts, arrangements, or understandings between two or more registered ophthalmologists who are ASO members operating in a shared practice to agree on fees to be charged for ophthalmology services.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC’s website <www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister>.

**Request for submission**

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.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the ASO’s application for authorisation, please do so by **Friday, 22 March 2013**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Tuyen Tran on (02) 6243 1208 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 February 2013</td>
<td>Lodgement of applications and supporting submission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 March 2013</td>
<td>Public consultation process begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March 2013</td>
<td>Closing date for submissions from interested parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April 2013</td>
<td>Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2013</td>
<td>Draft determination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2013</td>
<td>Final determination.</td>
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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 ASO’s application at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able, 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 proposed arrangements.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC’s public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please contact Tuyen Tran on (02) 6243 1208 (or at tuyen.tran@accc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch
List of Interested Parties

Australasian Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (AUSCRS)
Australian Health Insurance Association Ltd
Australian Health Service Alliance
Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee and Australian Medical Workforce
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association
Australian Institute of Eye Surgery
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
Australian Medical Association
Australian Medical Council
Australian Neurovision Centre
Brisbane Eye Clinic
Brisbane North Eye Centre
Catholic Health Australia
CHOICE
Consumers Health Forum
Department of Health (ACT)
Department of Health (New South Wales)
Department of Health (Queensland)
Department of Health (South Australia)
Department of Health (Western Australia)
Department of Health and Ageing
Department of Health and Community Services (Northern Territory)
Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)
Eye Surgery Associates
Glaucoma Australia
Gold Coast Eye Clinic
Gordon Eye Surgery
Health Complaints Commission Tasmania
Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia
Hobart Eye Surgeons
Laser Sight
Lions Eye Institute
National Rural Health Alliance
Office of the Health Services Commissioner
Optometrists Association of Australia
Orthoptic Association of Australia
Prince of Wales Hospital
Princess Alexandra Hospital
Private Health Insurance Administration Council
Queensland Eye Hospital
Royal Adelaide Hospital - Ophthalmology Department
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal Australian New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO)
Royal Perth Hospital - Ophthalmology Department
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Royal Society for the Blind (South Australia)
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Rural Health Workforce Australia
The Neuro-Ophthalmology Society of Australia
Vision Group Holdings Limited
Vision Group Holdings Limited
Vision Group Holdings Limited
Visionary Eye Specialists