



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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14 May 2013

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

**Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited application for authorisation A91376
- interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application to revoke a previous authorisation and substitute a new authorisation from the Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited (**RDAA**).

The ACCC invites you 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.

The RDAA and its constituent state associations seek authorisation to collectively negotiate with state/territory health departments, Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals where applicable, the terms of contracts for rural generalist and general practitioner visiting medical officers in rural areas. These negotiations could relate to payments for services provided to public patients or services provided within the hospital/facility. They could also include payments for the provision of primary care services, including after-hours services in the general practice or other primary care setting.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's website www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister. Alternatively, you can contact Gina D'Ettorre on (03) 9290 1483 to obtain a hard copy of the application and submission.

Interim authorisation

The RDAA has requested interim authorisation for the collective negotiations, as its current authorisation expires on 30 June 2013.

The ACCC endeavours to deal with requests for interim authorisation quickly. In making an assessment as to whether it is appropriate to grant interim authorisation, the ACCC is not required to undertake a full assessment of the benefit and detriment likely to arise as a result of the proposed conduct.

The ACCC decides whether to grant interim authorisation on a case by case basis. Should an applicant request interim authorisation, the ACCC will usually consider a range of factors, including harm to the applicant and other parties if interim is or is not granted, possible benefit and detriment to the public, the urgency of the matter and whether the market would be able to return to substantially its pre-interim state if the ACCC should later deny authorisation.

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; and
- the request for interim authorisation.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the RDAA's application for interim authorisation, please do so by **29 May 2013**.

Submissions on the substantive application should be provided by **7 June 2013**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Gina D'Ettorre on (03) 9290 1483 or Hannah Ransom on (02) 6243 1255 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.

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 7 May 2013 | Lodgement of application. |
| 14 May 2013 | Public consultation process begins. |
| 29 May 2013 | Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation. |
| 7 June 2013 | Closing date for submissions on substantive application. |
| June 2013 | ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation. |
| August 2013 | Draft determination. |
| August 2013 | Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called. |
| September/October 2013 | Final determination. |

If you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages, 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 contact Gina D'Ettorre on (03) 9290 1483 or Hannah Ransom on (02) 6243 1255.

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

List of Interested Parties Consulted

ACT Health
ACT Medicare Local
Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice
Australian Association of Practice Managers
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Australian Consumers Association
Australian General Practice Network
Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency/Medical Board
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
Australian Healthcare Reform Alliance
Australian Human Rights Commission
Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
Australian Medical Association
Australian Medicare Local Alliance
Australian Practice Nurse Association
Australian Private Hospitals Association
Barwon Medicare Local
Bayside Medicare Local
Bentley-Armadale Medicare Local
Central Adelaide and Hills Medicare Local
Central and North West Queensland Medicare Local
Central Coast NSW Medicare Local
Central Queensland Medicare Local
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Consumers Health Forum
Country North SA Medicare Local Ltd
Country South SA Medicare Local
Darling Downs – South West Queensland Medicare Local
Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport
Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local
Eastern Sydney Medicare Local
Far North Queensland Medicare Local
Far West NSW Medicare Local
Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local
Fremantle Medicare Local
General Practice Network NT
General Practice Registrars Association

Gippsland Medicare Local
Gold Coast Medicare Local
Goldfields – Midwest Medicare Local
Goulburn Valley Medicare Local
Grampians Medicare Local
Great South Coast Medicare Local
Greater Metro South Brisbane Medicare Local
Health and Community Services Complaints Commission (NT)
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office
Health Care Complaints Commission (NSW)
Health Complaints Commission Tasmania
Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia
Health Quality and Complaints Commission (QLD)
Health Recruitment Plus Tasmania
Health Services Commissioner (Vic)
Health Services Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission
Health Workforce Queensland
Hume Medicare Local
Hunter Medicare Local
Illawarra – Shoalhaven Medicare Local
Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local
Inner North West Melbourne
Inner West Sydney Medicare Local
Kimberley-Pilbara Medicare Local
Loddon – Mallee – Murray Medicare Local
Lower Murray Medicare Local
Macedon Ranges and North West Melbourne Medicare Local
Medical Board of Queensland
Medical Board of South Australia
Medical Board of the ACT
Medical Board of the Northern Territory
Medical Board of Western Australia
Medical Council of Tasmania
Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria
Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local
Murrumbidgee Medicare Local
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
National Rural Health Alliance
Nepean – Blue Mountains Medicare Local
New England Medicare Local

North Coast NSW Medicare Local
Northern Melbourne Medicare Local
Northern Sydney Medicare Local
Northern Territory Medicare Local
NSW Department of Health
NSW Medical Board
NT Department of Health
NWS Rural Doctors Network
Perth Central and East Metro Medicare Local
Perth North Metro Medicare Local
Perth South Coastal Medicare Local
Queensland Health
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
Royal Flying Doctor Service
Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Inc SA
Rural Health West
Rural Health Workforce Australia
SA Department of Health .
South Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local
South Eastern Sydney Medicare Local
South West WA Medicare Local
South Western Melbourne Medicare Local
South Western Sydney Medicare Local
Southern Adelaide – Fleurieu – Kangaroo Island Medicare Local
Southern NSW Medicare Local
Sunshine Coast Medicare Local
Sydney North Shore and Beaches Medicare Local
TAS Department of Health and Human Services
Tasmania Medicare Local
Townsville – Mackay Medicare Local
Victorian Department of Health
WA Department of Health
West Moreton-Oxley Medicare Local
Western NSW Medicare Local
Western Sydney Medicare Local
Wide Bay Medicare Local