

Our Ref: 280204
Your Ref: A91360



6 June 2013

BY EMAIL: David.Hatfield@accc.gov.au

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

ATTENTION: Mr David Hatfield

Dear Sir

Australian Society of Ophthalmologists Inc Application for Authorisation - A91360

We refer to your emails to this office of 4 June 2013.

We are instructed to respond to your further enquiries as follows.

Ophthalmologists Practising in Shared Practice

1. The data expressed in paragraph 14 of the ASO's Application is based the ASO's survey of its members.
2. The data expressed in paragraph 29 of our letter to the ACCC of 3 June 2012 is taken from the workforce survey conducted by RANZCO in 2012 (**RANZCO Survey**).
3. We cannot provide a definitive explanation for the discrepancy between the survey results. However, we note the following:
 - 3.1 The RANZCO Survey was a "larger" survey, in that it had a larger number of respondents.
 - 3.2 It may be that practitioners practising in group practice are more likely to become ASO members if the practitioners they practice with are already ASO members. However, we have no substantive basis to confirm or illustrate this – it is speculation.

RANZCO Figures

4. The figure of 42% referred to in paragraph 25 of our letter to the ACCC of 3 June 2013 was based on the ASO's survey to its members.

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5. Again, we cannot provide a definitive explanation for the discrepancy between the ASO survey results and the RANZCO Survey results. The data was collected in two different surveys based on two different data sets.

Shared Practice

6. The Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Service agency (**IRIS**) is not considered to be a "branch practice".
7. We offer the following further description of a branch practice: A branch practice is one which is owned or controlled by a pre-existing practice. Usually, branch practices come into existence when pre-existing ophthalmology practices decide to expand into new (geographical) areas – ie, opening a facility in a new location. There are obviously various ways in which such expansion can be structured and financed. However, at the very least, branch practices will usually involve common branding, administrative personnel and (at least to a degree) common owners.

We trust that this satisfies your further enquiries. Please let us know if you wish to discuss these matters further.

We are not instructed to seek the exclusion of this or our correspondence to you of 3 June 2013 from the public register.

Yours faithfully
KELLY & CO.

per:



Nick Karagiannis
Partner

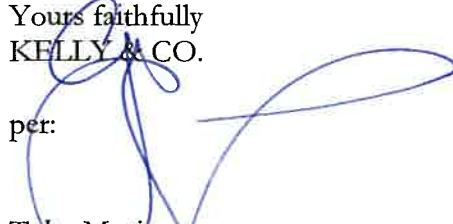
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Yours faithfully
KELLY & CO.

per:



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Enc.