



12 June 2013

Dr Richard Chadwick  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Chadwick

**Re: Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited application for  
authorisation A91376 – interested party consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application made by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) to collectively negotiate with state/territory health departments, local hospital networks and Medicare Locals, the term of contracts for rural generalist and general practitioner visiting medical officers in rural areas.

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (the College) supports the RDAA in their application so they can continue to support rural doctors, promote the efficient delivery of health care services, and continue to improve better workforce recruitment and retention and the improved health outcomes for rural and regional communities.

The College considers the authorisation that currently exists to be relevant, beneficial and necessary to facilitate collective negotiations between RDAA and its constituent state associations and State and Territory Health Departments. The need to extend the scope to include Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks is therefore necessary so that the RDAA can continue to appropriately support rural doctors.

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine supports initiatives for which rural doctors can provide better health outcomes for rural people.

The College recommends this authorisation to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Yours sincerely

Marita Cowie  
**Chief Executive Officer**