



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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20 June 2013

By email

Dear Sir / Madam

Australian Society of Ophthalmologists application for authorisation A91360 - draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists (**ASO**) on 26 February 2013.

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 Australian Society of Ophthalmologists is seeking authorisation for its members to reach agreements as to the fees to be charged for ophthalmic services provided within a shared practice.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to deny authorisation of the proposed arrangements.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the ASO or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **11 July 2013**.

A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **4 July 2013**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

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 continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
26 February 2013	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
8 March 2013	Public consultation process begins.
20 June 2013	Draft determination.
June/July 2013	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
August 2013	Final determination (if a conference is not called).

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 Hannah Ransom on (02) 6243 1255.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Adjudication Branch