

13 August 2014

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
ABN 37 008 426 793

T | 61 2 6270 5400
F | 61 2 6270 5499
E | info@ama.com.au
W | www.ama.com.au

42 Macquarie St Barton ACT 2600
PO Box 6090 Kingston ACT 2604

Dear Dr Chadwick

RE: The Australian National University application for revocation of authorisations (A91144, A91145 and A91178) and substitution of new authorisations (A91441, A91442 and A91443) in relation to selection and interview processes for graduate-entry medical schools.

Thank you for your letter of 09 July 2014 regarding the above application for revocation and authorisation lodged by the Australian National University and the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT) Consortium and the opportunity to comment on the application.

The AMA supported the existing authorisation granted to the Consortium in 2009, including the single interview policy. However, we did ask the Commission to look carefully at its operation to ensure that it did not lead to unintended outcomes.

The current application proposes no significant changes to the original authorisation and we welcome the inclusion of information about the operation of the policy in the current application. The AMA notes the advice from the Consortium that, for applicants whose interview performance is a true reflection of their ability, the passing on of their application to their next preferred school ensures that the risk of these applicants not being offered a place is no higher than would be the case if the policy was not implemented. We also note that the GAMSAT Selection Appeals Committee has heard very few appeals.

In the absence of any clear evidence of significant detriment arising from the operation of the authorisation and the single interview policy, the AMA's position has not changed. However, the AMA would encourage the ACCC to remain vigilant with respect to the single interview process by ensuring that the Consortium provides publicly accessible information about its operation so that it remains transparent and we continue to see the most meritorious students gain entry to medical school.

The AMA appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission to the ACCC. If you have any questions regarding the matters outlined above, please contact John Alati, Senior Industrial and Legal Advisor at jalati@ama.com.au or on (02) 6270 5473.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Owler', written in a cursive style.

A/Prof Brian Owler
President