



## Department of Health and Human Services

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Steven Lee  
Analyst, Adjudication  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Level 17, 2 Lonsdale Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Lee

### **Re: Australia New Zealand Industrial Gas Association**

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2020 regarding a request to the Australian Competition and Consumer for interim authorisation from the Australia New Zealand Industrial Gas Association. On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment.

The department supports in-principle the request for interim authorisation from the Australia New Zealand Industrial Gas Association (its members and other suppliers of medical oxygen) to exchange information and make appropriate arrangements as reasonably necessary to ensure security of supply of medical oxygen to hospitals and similar medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increased global demand for critical medical items and equipment used in the management of patients with COVID-19. Supply chains for products used to treat other medical conditions have also been impacted. Securing sufficient supplies for our healthcare workers and patients has been a major focus in the Victorian Government's response to protecting the health and wellbeing of our community.

With the current global supply chain issues and a rapidly evolving public health emergency, effective collaboration and sharing of knowledge and intelligence within the healthcare industry is critical and necessary during these unprecedented times to support the response and recovery work led by all State/Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mathew Jenkins, COVID-19 Health Sector Consumables and Equipment at the Department of Health and Human Services on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**Phuong Pham**

COVID-19 Health Sector Consumables and Equipment Lead  
Department of Health and Human Services  
03 / 06 / 2020