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From: Alison Verhoeven [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2020 3:15 PM
To: [REDACTED] Adjudication
Subject: MTAA - AA 1000479

Dear Ms Dwyer

Thank you inviting the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association to comment on the public benefits and likely effect on competition in relation to the Medical Technology Association of Australia's application on behalf of its members and relevant non-members to implement a coordinated manufacturing and supply strategy in relation to medical equipment and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association is a not-for-profit national peak body representing public and not-for-profit hospitals, Primary Health Networks, community health centres, aged care providers and other businesses, the majority of whom are engaged in providing health and related services. The impact of COVID-19 on the availability of medical equipment and supplies has been significant on our members, many of whom have had to cease or modify service offerings because of product shortages. We anticipate this will have a major and long-lasting impact on the health of all Australians, not only for those experiencing COVID-19, but also for the many Australians who are now unable to access regular health care.

It is therefore a matter of significant urgency that every effort be made to ensure the availability of sufficient medical equipment and supplies to allow the delivery of urgent care and also for the resumption of normal health care services. It is most appropriate that manufacturers and suppliers coordinate their activities, share information, provide advice and respond quickly and effectively to the requirements of governments and health services.

This application is strongly supported by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association as being critical to the ability to address significant supply constraints in the health sector, and in ensuring health services are appropriately resourced for implement resumption of normal services. It is unlikely to have any negative impact on competition in the short to medium term, and we understand that review processes will be in place to address longer term arrangements.

I would be pleased to provide any additional comments or information as required.

Yours sincerely

Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
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Sent from my iPad