

### **Submission by Compound Direct-22 May 2023**

While the number of individuals directly affected may seem small (approximately 20 to 40 vendors), the implications extend far. These vendors, supported by Medisecure software, play a vital role in serving millions of Australians. Hence, the decision at hand has a profound effect on these companies and the wider community. It is essential to understand that Fred IT Group's subsidiary, ERX, seeks to establish a monopoly in the electronic prescription market. Additionally, Fred Dispense, another subsidiary, provides dispensing software for pharmacies. This decision forces all dispensing pharmacy software providers engage exclusively with their competitor, Fred IT Group to sustain their business operations. This requirement places an unfair burden on their progress and incentivizes subpar solutions from the competitor. One of the key reasons why Medisecure has gained prominence among innovative software providers is their provision of a competitive API solution for electronic prescriptions. In contrast to Fred IT Group, Medisecure offers a modern API that seamlessly integrates with the electronic prescription exchange using the widely accepted HTTP standard employed by websites worldwide. It is disheartening to note that Fred IT Group does not offer a similar API, limiting their compatibility to Windows-based pharmacy software like Fred Dispense. The absence of incentives for Fred IT Group to develop a comparable system that benefits the entire industry is evident. Despite claims made two years ago about API development, specific timelines are still lacking. The success of this application will leave countless software providers without suitable solutions, adversely impacting millions of people. Fred IT Group's insistence on exclusivity in integrating their electronic description services, thereby barring connectivity with Medisecure, undermines healthy competition. This clause illustrates their willingness to stifle other dispensing software providers.