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**From:** Deidre Sun [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 June 2021 6:39 PM  
**To:** Exemptions  
**Subject:** AA1000542 – Honeysuckle Health – submission

Dear ACCC committee,

I am a VMO Specialist Anaesthetist working in mixed public and private practice in Sydney. I have recently also taken on the acting position as Head of Department of Anaesthesia at the Private Hospital -Macquarie University Hospital, in Sydney.

I am increasingly concerned about the power and influence that the health corporations are gaining. For example in my hospital- schemes for 'less out of pocket payments for patients' , with hidden payments to practitioners in secretive deals are being struck.This is not transparent and not in patients health interest. The health funds are being given power and influence without concern for patient outcomes.

The US style managed care gives over health care outcomes to companies who exist merely to make profits at the expense of health care delivery. The patients do not realise that the health fund they belong to does not exist for their benefit, but for shareholders.

Australia currently has a world class healthcare system which will be damaged with introduction of US style managed care. The Cigna company, I believe, has been the defendant of lawsuits for patient care. More recent reports from the USA report increasingly large out of pocket payments for health care, driven by funds controlling decisions aimed at profit making, rather than best care for the patient.

Up till now Australian health practitioners have been free to make decisions independently based on best care for patients rather than health fund rules and restrictions. These choices must be maintained to enable best care to our patients. We cannot allow health funds to dictate health management decisions , or determine by whom or where, the patients should be treated.The ACCC needs to act to protect the independence of the doctor patient relationship and preserve our world class health care system.

Kind Regards,  
Deidre Sun

FANZCA  
Specialist Anaesthetist  
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