



## Department of Health and Human Services

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Joe Saunders  
Director, Adjudication  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Saunders

**Re: Medicines Australia – AA1000486 and MTAA – AA1000479**

Thank you for your letters of 6 and 17 April 2020 regarding the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's interim authorisation decisions for applications from Medicines Australia and the Medical Technology Association of Australia. On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment.

The department supports both interim decisions to enable Medicines Australia (and its associated parties) and the Medical Technology Association of Australia (and its associated parties) to implement coordinated strategies in relation to the supply of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increased global demand for essential medicines, pathology supplies, personal protective equipment and medical devices used in the management of patients with COVID-19. Supply chains for critical medicines 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 during this pandemic.

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 work led by all State/Territory and Commonwealth Governments to flatten the curve.

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

Yours sincerely

*Signed for electronic distribution*

**Phuong Pham**  
COVID-19 Health Sector Consumables and Equipment Lead  
Department of Health and Human Services  
12 / 5 / 2020