



Dr BARBARA WOODHOUSE

MB.BS.(Qld), BDS.c.(Qld), M.DSc.(Qld), FRACDS, FFDRCS (IREL), FRACDS(OM6), FICD, FADI

ORAL and MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Wickham Terrace Surgical Centre

Level 3, 113 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane Q 4000

Telephone (07) 3839 4717

1300 36 4717 (Outside Brisbane)

Fax (07) 3839 4459

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The proposed draft determination released on 21 May 2021 favouring conditional approval of a proposal from Honeysuckle and NIB to form and operate a health services buying group has major implications for the health and wellbeing of all Australians. have grave concerns regarding a multibillion-dollar US company merging with an Australian health insurer to purchase health services from the private sector. This is the beginning of a US styled managed care system and the company in question is the subject of a number of unfavorable reviews in the United States.

We have seen the impact of this model in the United States where treatment options and choices are dictated by large companies on commercial grounds, rather than by doctors looking after the individual best interests of their patients.

The Australian public should not lose their right to choose their doctor and the treatment they receive based on need and individual assessment rather than how best to maximise corporate profits.

I strongly believe this application will have a negative impact on the quality of healthcare provided to Australians in the private sector and by representing such a large group of health funds and hospitals, lead to decreased choice for Australians.

I disagree with the ACCC draft determination of the Honeysuckle/NIB proposal and request that the ACCC rejects the application.


Dr Barbara Woodhouse.