
From: David B [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 4:02 PM
To: Exemptions
Subject: AA1000542 – Honeysuckle Health – submission

Dear ACCC

I currently work as an independent medical specialist in Hobart Tasmania.

I am only a single individual who is trying to add my voice in opposition to the multinational backed proposal to undertake a highly restrictive US style managed care system being introduced into Australia.

Currently I have the freedom to work in any Healthcare facility, and with any proceduralist in Hobart. This would be restricted with the introduction of managed-care.

If as an individual specialist I choose not to sign up to a managed-care contract with a hospital it will potentially mean I will be excluded for working in that facility. This would also be the case for other anaesthetist's in Hobart as well.

I provide obstetric care at the two private hospitals (Heathslope and Calvery) in Hobart. I participate in an oncall roster that allows for the provision of timely emergency treatment for patients (eg. labour epidurals and emergency caesarean sections)

Managed care would mean that patients may not be able to access an anaesthetist in an emergency. Potentially resulting in the death of a mother and her baby.

Currently the demand for anaesthetic services is very high, both in hours and out of hours. Providing 24 hour emergency coverage is difficult. The addition of a managed care model would significantly reduce the ability of a patient to undergo emergency surgery due to lack of available anaesthetists. Only those anaesthetists who had signed up for a fixed fee contract would be able to access that facility.

This would devastate the private healthcare system in Tasmania, and place a massive burden on the public system. We already have patients waiting 5 years in misery and pain for surgery. The cost in terms of the pain and suffering for the individual patient is huge.

I realise that my email lacks the professional glow of the submissions from the corporate giant that is Honeysuckle Health.

I am distressed for the Tasmanian public, as this would be a massive step backwards. I would upend a system that has been working well for multiple decades.

Once one multinational company get approval then there will be many more also seeking to be approved. The power balance will be with those companies. They will be choosing who a patient is going to be seen

by and what care they are to receive. The consumer (patient) will not have a choice in Tasmania if this occurs. Their health fund will make the choice for them.

The care provided will be designed to allow the company to make a significant profit to send to their shareholders as dividends.

My opinion is based on working in Tasmanian Hospitals for 26 years, and almost 20 years as a specialist anaesthetist.

Kind Regards

Dr David Brown

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