
From: Tedsmith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 12:25 PM
To: Exemptions
Subject: AA1000542-HoneysuckleHealth-submission

To whom it may concern,

This proposal seeks to push our relatively successful local health system towards the model of the failed health care system in the USA. Patients will be limited in their choice of doctor and hospital. Doctors will be limited in the choice of treatment that they can offer, and in the choice of which implants or medicines can be used. The only winner would be the bottom line of the buying group.

The standard of cover provided for Australian patients by “for profit” funds has noticeably declined in recent years, and some funds have flexed considerable financial and legal muscle in attempt to get health providers to fall into line. Providers who don’t sign exclusive no gap agreements with certain funds have in effect been boycotted by the funds. In some cases funds have sent letters to complete patient databases of non-complying clinics suggesting “better” (eg compliant) providers elsewhere. The inclusion of the anti boycott clause relating to the buying group submission intrinsically recognises the high chance of such an eventuality without regulation. The limitation of market share to 40% recognises the potential of corporate healthcare giants to bully patients and providers into a system of second rate care. In the long game, the buying group(s) are likely to assume that these controls can be ultimately circumvented.

The US healthcare system spends more per capita than any other nation, yet has by far the least comprehensive/ inclusive health provision of any developed nation. This is largely because of unnecessary intermediate agents negotiating contracts between patients/ funds/ pharmaceutical/ device companies/ clinics/ hospitals. The bloated american healthcare budget largely evaporates with a surprisingly small effective output being the result. There are huge amounts skimmed off for profits of intermediate private companies. It is baffling that any forward-thinking nation would emulate this failed system.

Thank you,

Dr Edward Smith MBBS FRACS

ENT surgeon, Sydney