
From: James Griffiths [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 June 2021 9:32 AM
To: Exemptions
Subject: AA1000542 – Honeysuckle Health – submission

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: ACCC draft proposal to authorise the formation of a Honeysuckle/nib buying group

I am specialist anaesthetist working in a mix of public and private practice in metropolitan Melbourne. I have relatives, friends and colleagues involved in healthcare around the world (especially the UK and the US/Canada). It is very clear that the Australian healthcare system is world class and provides care which is, in many ways, superior to both the US and UK models. However, the Australian healthcare model is fragile and needs to be proactively protected.

The recent draft determination by the ACCC authorising the formation of a large conglomerate buying group between Honeysuckle and nib represents a significant step towards the introduction of a model of “managed care” into Australia. This model provides healthcare delivered by large powerful ‘for profit’ companies and fundamentally threatens the delivery of Australian healthcare as we know it.

The Australian healthcare system prioritises the doctor-patient relationship and the absolute independence of this bond in healthcare decision-making. Managed care gives control of this decision-making to companies not doctors, limiting the ability of patients to make independent health choices supported by their specialist doctors. Currently, patients have a great deal of choice regarding who will provide their healthcare, what care they will choose and where they will receive it. Managed care vastly limits all these choices by giving healthcare companies control over these decisions instead of allowing doctors and patients to make these choices independently.

I would be grateful for your assurance that you will advocate for the Australian healthcare consumer and take action to prevent the introduction of managed care in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Griffiths

MB, BS, FANZCA, MEpi, PGCertCU, DipClinHyp

