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**From:** Dr James Hosking [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 June 2021 4:49 PM  
**To:** Exemptions  
**Subject:** AA1000542 submission (Honeysuckle Health)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write with concern of the interim approval of the Honeysuckle Health to form a health services buying group. I am an anaesthetist that works in Queensland in both private and public practice. This appears to be a fundamental shift in the power balance that maintains competition in the private health system. It seems to approve a shift towards the Managed Care system that exists in the United States where health outcomes are lower for a substantial increase in overall cost - approximately double that in Australia.

I quote “The Applicants have not sought authorisation for the HH Buying Group to engage in the collective boycott of any services of a Provider. This means that no Provider would be obliged to deal with the HH Buying Group and the HH Buying Group would not be permitted to boycott any Providers that refuse to deal with the group.” This statement ignores how health work is distributed in the private sector which is by patient choice of practitioner, existing relationships between primary practitioners and specialists, referrals from hospital emergency departments. Concentrating this with the Honeysuckle group will lead to direction to their preferred providers, in other words their contracted providers. This will be a de facto boycott.

Cigna is a for profit organisation and it is noticeable that this is their first major involvement in the Australian Health System, an attempt to introduce a USA type model.

Regards,

Dr James Hosking