

7th June 2021

Dr Lakmini De Silva



To the relevant parties.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Introduction of Managed Care – Honeysuckle and nib buying group proposal

I am writing to express my grave concern at the proposal that has been made to the ACCC with regards to introduction of Managed Care into the Australian Health system.

We don't have to look far to see how this system has failed other countries and more importantly, their clients, the patients. Having a profit based insurance company determine decisions about patient care and outcome is flawed in every aspect. The companies use the term 'value based'. Value based according to whom? The company bottom line I suspect. To have a model of one size fits all simply doesn't work in medicine. Even in common procedures, patient co morbidities and complexities makes it vital that health care providers are able to tailor the service.

We must ask the question what is the motive? Financial and share holder interests will dominate. Insurance companies will determine the distribution of health care funds as they see commercially fit. This will be clearly detrimental to the future of our excellent health care system that is envy of other countries. We must act now to protect it, now more than ever with our ageing population.

I urge you to discuss this proposal widely. Inform the public that are unwittingly about to enter a path of no return where the world class health care they experience is about to change drastically. You will find what they value most is choice – the freedom to choose a specialist that they trust to make appropriate clinical decisions for them, and have their admission in a hospital of their choice with the team that the specialist thinks is best to treat them. Managed care not only takes away that choice, but engenders a future where options will be limited to the patient. Inevitably, despite initial promises their out of pocket expenditure will rise when alternative procedures are deemed not to be covered under the insurer policy. Patients will feel less empowered.

I firmly oppose the introduction of Managed Care into the Australian Health Care System. It is imperative we protect the independence of the doctor patient relationship without commercial influence.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Lakmini De Silva
Anaesthetist