
From: Trista Valk [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 8:41 PM
To: Exemptions
Subject: AA1000542 Public Consultation

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr Trista Valk, a HMO from Newcastle.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to grant NIB/Honeysuckle authorisation to operate a buying collective with Australian healthcare providers (Authorisation number: AA1000542).

This fundamentally reduces the current level playing field that health care providers operate under in the private sector in Australia and ultimately restricts patients' options when choosing a health care provider. The only motivation for NIB/Honeysuckle to operate such a program is to reduce the quality of the (already poor) product that they sell to patients and increase their profit margins.

This is exactly the kind of anticompetitive corporate behaviour that the ACCC was established to prevent.

As a doctor and private healthcare customer. I am concerned for the future of Australian healthcare if this activity is approved, models such as this have already been found to be not in the interest of the population the private healthcare provider serves.

I implore the ACCC to reject this proposal.

Regards,
Dr Trista Valk