

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALASIA INC

Mr Rod Sims, Chairman
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601
E - [REDACTED]

04 June 2021

Dear Mr Sims,

Re: ACCC draft determination - Honeysuckle Health (HH Buying Group) to procure health care and medical service.

The Interventional Radiology Society of Australasia (IRSA) writes again to reiterate its strong opposition to the proposed draft determination released on 21 May 2021 favouring conditional approval of a proposal from Honeysuckle and NIB to form and operate a Health Services Buying Group.

We have seen the negative impact of such a model in the USA, which:

- Reduces patient's freedom of choice of healthcare provider.
- Reduces patient's treatment options.
- Reduces patient's access to healthcare services.
- Erodes confidence in Medicare.
- Erodes confidence in Private Medical Insurance and the private medical system.
- Negatively impacts the doctor-patient relationship. This proposed model forces doctors to cut corners, limit services and limit treatments.

Overall, the proposal goes against the Australian ethos of equal access to the best of care for all Australians. In the proposed model, patients will have nowhere to turn, but the public health system which will become overloaded.

IRSA disagrees with the ACCC draft determination about the proposal and requests that the ACCC reverse its draft decision on the Honeysuckle application and reject the application in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,



A/Prof Gerard Goh
IRSA President