

The Australian Hand Surgery Society

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Jeffrey Ecker

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To the ACCC,

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 has major implications for the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

We have grave concerns regarding a multibillion-dollar US company merging with an Australian health insurer to purchase health services from the private sector.

We have seen the impact of this model in the United States where treatment options and choices are dictated by large companies on commercial grounds. The Australian public should not lose their right to choose their doctor and the treatment they receive. The Australian Hand Surgery Society strongly believes this application will have a negative impact on the quality of healthcare provided to Australians in the private sector.

The Australian Hand Surgery Society disagrees with the ACCC draft determination of the Honeysuckle/NIB proposal and requests that the ACCC rejects the application.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ecker

- cc. Australian Medical Association
- cc. Australian Orthopaedic Association
- cc. Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
- cc. Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons