



Australian Government

Department of Health

Mr David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601
exemptions@acc.gov.au

Re: CALMS Ltd application for revocation of authorisation A91276 and substitution of AA1000602 – interested party consultation

Dear Mr Hatfield

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 2022 seeking the views of the Commonwealth Department of Health in respect of the application made by CALMS to continue to apply a capped fee schedule for after hours primary medical care in the ACT.

I note you advise CALMS has also sought interim authorisation from the expiration of the current authorisation on 20 March 2022 until the outcome of the application has been determined.

The Commonwealth Department of Health has no objection to CALMS application to apply a capped fee schedule for after hours primary medical care. CALMS plays an important role in ensuring patients have access to after hours primary care services. The application of a capped fee schedule keeps the cost of primary care services affordable for patients and reduces the likelihood that patients will present to emergency departments due to cost.

The Department notes that there are alternative after hours providers in the ACT and that participation in CALMS arrangements by general practitioners is voluntary. Therefore, the Department is of the view that the application of a capped fee schedule by CALMS does not prevent competition in the sector.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Jane Wicks, Acting Assistant Secretary,
Primary Health Care Reform Taskforce, on [REDACTED] or at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Simon Cotterell
First Assistant Secretary
Primary Care Division

10 February 2022