

20 May 2020

Ms Susan Philp
Director
Adjudication
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

By email: adjudication@acc.gov.au

Dear Ms Philp

AA100511 – AMA (NSW) – submission

I write in support of above application for authorisation, noting the interim authorisation that has been recently granted. In our view, authorisation will support the provision of care and treatment of referred public patients to private hospital operators under the Commonwealth Government Viability Package.

Particular benefits of the authorisation are:

- It supports the uninterrupted supply of high quality clinical services to referred public patients during this COVID-19 pandemic;
- AMA NSW is enabled to seek efficient and fair remuneration via a 'levelled playing field' between affected VMOs and the private hospital operators; and
- additional administrative and financial costs have been avoided that would otherwise have been born by the public purse had a model of individual negotiations prevailed.

I note that AMA NSW has a long standing history of representing VMOs in negotiations with the NSW Ministry of Health. This statutory right has been exercised responsibly, ensuring that fair and sustainable public sector conditions for VMOS are in place and that public hospitals are supported in the provision of care to patients. The ACCC has also previously authorised this conduct and, taken together, this should provide the ACCC with sufficient confidence to grant this application.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Hough
Director, General Practice and Workplace Policy



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