



Our ref: AA1000427
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By email

Dear Sir / Madam

Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited application for revocation of authorisation A91376 and substitution of new authorisation A1000427—interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for re-authorisation from the Rural Doctors Association of Australia Limited (RDAA), (revocation and substitution). The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Please see pages 20-28 the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for authorisation of conduct \(non-merger\)](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

The RDAA and its state associations have sought re-authorisation to continue to collectively negotiate with state and territory health departments, Country Health South Australia and Western Australia Country Health Service, on behalf of rural doctors. The negotiations relate to the terms and conditions under which rural doctors, including GPs and locums, provide services in public hospitals and health facilities as Visiting Medical Officers and provide after-hours services. The RDAA also seeks to extend authorisation to collectively negotiate with Victorian Local Hospital Networks, certain specified Primary Health Networks and Queensland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) areas.

The ACCC notes that the proposed collective negotiating arrangements are voluntary for all relevant parties and that authorisation of collective boycotts *has not* been requested.

A full copy of the application for [re-]authorisation is available on the ACCC's website www.acc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the RDAA's application for re-authorisation, please do so by **31 August 2018**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject 'AA1000427 – RDAA – submission'.

Submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. For further information see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from public register](#).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information

31 July 2018	Lodgement of application
10 August 2018	Public consultation process begins.
31 August 2018	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
September 2018	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
October 2018	Draft determination.
November 2018	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
December 2018	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Luke Griffin on 02 6243 1114 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication