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Dear Madam/Sir

National Pharmaceutical Services Association's application for revocation of authorisation AA1000480 and substitution of AA1000571 — draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for re-authorisation lodged by the National Pharmaceutical Services Association on 6 September 2021.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation with a condition until 28 February 2023.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **21 January 2022**. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000571 – National Pharmaceutical Services Association – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Tom Lyle via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

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

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases the applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **21 January 2022** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Timetable

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

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
6 September 2021	Lodgement of application.
10 September 2021	Interim Authorisation Decision.
9 December 2021	Draft determination.
Dec/January 2022	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
February 2022	Final determination.

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 Tom Lyle on 03 9290 1879.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions