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Our ref: AA1000636  
Contact officer: Rebecca Ryan  
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13 July 2023

By email

Dear Interested Party

## **Health Partners Limited - application for authorisation AA1000636 - draft determination and interim authorisation decision**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Health Partners Limited (**Health Partners**) on 16 February 2023.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 5 years to Health Partners to enter into and give effect to certain pricing arrangement provisions in agreements with dentists and partner dental practices which form part of its partner network of dental practices (**Partner Practices**) in regional South Australia.

The ACCC has decided not to grant interim authorisation while the ACCC is considering the substantive application.

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 **27 July 2023**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the [public register page](#) for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments verbally, please contact Rebecca Ryan 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 **27 July 2023** by email to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto: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
16 February 2023	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
March – May 2023	Public consultation process on application and request for interim authorisation.
13 July 2023	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
13 July 2023 – 27 July 2023	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
August 2023	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 Rebecca Ryan on 02 6243 1300 .

Yours sincerely



Naomi Menon  
Director  
Competition Exemptions