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Dear Interested Party

Application for authorisation AA1000641 — interim authorisation decision

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Fred IT Group Pty Ltd (**Fred IT Group**) on 9 May 2023. A copy of the ACCC decision is attached.

The Conduct authorised under this interim authorisation only extends to Fred IT Group making contracts, arrangements or understandings involving MediSecure. Following a procurement process, the Department has decided to fund a single provider of electronic prescription services: Fred IT Group. The assessment to be made by the ACCC is what benefits and detriments are likely to flow from the proposed transitional arrangements, given that decision by the Department.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Next steps

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from Fred IT Group and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give both Fred IT Group and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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 Sophie Magliano on 03 9658 6429 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions