

29 March 2023

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Rebecca Ryan  
Senior Analyst  
Competition Exemptions | Mergers, Exemptions and Digital  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Rebecca

**Interim Authorisation – application for revocation and substitution of authorisation (non-merger) for HCF**

1. The Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia Limited ACN 000 026 746 (**HCF**) lodged its application for revocation of existing ACCC authorisation AA1000402 granted on 11 May 2018 (**Initial Authorisation**) and substitution of a new authorisation electronically on 23 March 2023 (**Reauthorisation Application**).
2. HCF seeks interim authorisation of the Proposed Conduct, as defined at paragraph 15 of the Reauthorisation Application, to enable it and the counterparties identified in Confidential Schedule 1 to the Reauthorisation Application to engage in the Proposed Conduct while the ACCC considers its substantive Reauthorisation Application. The Initial Authorisation expires on 1 June 2023.

*Extent to which the relevant market will change and the need for interim authorisation*

3. The conduct authorised under the Initial Authorisation, which is substantially the same as the Proposed Conduct, has been ongoing for a period of almost five years. HCF considers that the Proposed Conduct will not change the current market status quo.

*Possible harm to HCF or other parties if request for interim authorisation is granted or denied*

4. HCF has made considerable investment in its DCN centres since the Initial Authorisation was granted (see paragraph 74 of the Reauthorisation Application) and the MFT Program is an important benefit for its members. Interim authorisation is required for the continued operation of the DCN centres and the MFT Program in the overlap areas (see paragraphs 1 and 30 of the Reauthorisation Application).
5. Further, HCF considers that granting its request for interim authorisation would not cause harm to any other parties (including members and competitors) as the current market conditions would remain unchanged were the Proposed Conduct to be authorised.

*Public benefits and detriments*

6. HCF refers to paragraphs 76 to 93 of the Reauthorisation Application.

We consent to this application and correspondence being disclosed on the Public Register. We would be pleased to discuss this application with you.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Barnard  
Head of Legal and Compliance