
From: Lucy Goold [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 2:24 PM
To: Exemptions
Subject: Cigna / NIB managed care

Categories: Submission

Dear ACCC,

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns regarding the drift of the Australian health care system toward the American model. I'm sure you are aware as both a health policy professional and a health care consumer that this is a backward step in the excellent system we are lucky enough to have here in Australia.

Currently in my experience every member of the community, no matter how underprivileged or wealthy, has fair access to free (or at least tax payer funded) healthcare, albeit after a prolonged wait in the usual scenario. I have never seen a patient denied the care they need on a cost basis. In Launceston in ophthalmology in particular, it makes not a skerrick of difference from referral to post op care (inclusive of surgery) whether a patient has private insurance or not (aside from the duration of the waiting list). This is an enviable position to hold in the country, and certainly compared with other parts of the world.

I understand that CignaCorp is one of the largest Managed Health Care organisations (HMO) in America.

I do not feel comfortable with my patient management options being dictated by an insurer driven by financial gain. I do not want his or her treatment plan influenced by a contract with the health insurer who already makes plenty of

money from the health care system and seeks only to make more.

Please introduce legislation which protects Australians against any possible version of managed health care in this country. Other countries have successfully done this.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Lucy Goold

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Launceston Eye Doctors.