

Submission by Private Healthcare Australia-3 November 2023

Submission by Private Healthcare Australia to ACCC 3 November 2023 Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a further submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the application for authorisation from Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia Limited (HCF) to enter into and give effect to certain price capping provisions in agreements that it enters into with dentists who participate in its 'More For Teeth Program' in the same local catchment areas that it owns and operates its own dental clinics (Dental Centre Network). PHA agrees with the ACCC that the proposed authorisation is likely to result in a public benefit of increased access to price certainty for preventive and diagnostic dental services, and that this outweighs any potential public detriment. Providing consumers with price certainty for dental care is enormously beneficial for consumers, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis that is causing an increasing number of Australians to reconsider or forego healthcare due to concerns about cost.