

4 June 2021

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Via email: [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au)

ANZSVS Response to ACCC determination Re: Honeysuckle Health / NIB

To the ACCC,

We write in relation to the ACCC's draft determination of a proposal from Honeysuckle and NIB to form and operate a health services buying group (released on 21 May 2021).

This determination in favour of conditional approval has major implications for the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

The Australian Healthcare sector is currently performing well by international standards and there is evidence of superior outcomes at lower overall costs (when examining Healthcare expenditure as a proportion of GDP) when compared to the US Health system. It is surprising and extremely concerning that a multibillion-dollar US-based company's incursion into the Australian Healthcare sector, merging with Australian health insurers to purchase health services from the private sector and potentially transform and destabilise the healthcare sector in Australia.

When such a model is scrutinised in the United States there is widespread evidence of restriction of treatment options and choices are dictated by large companies on commercial grounds. The Australian public should not lose their right to choose their doctor and the treatment they receive.

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery strongly believes this application will have a negative impact on the quality of healthcare provided to Australians in the private sector. We disagree with the ACCC draft determination of the Honeysuckle/NIB proposal and request that the ACCC considers rejection of the application.

Kind Regards,



Dr Mark Jackson  
Chair of Relationships and Standards Portfolio  
ANZSVS



Dr Peter Subramaniam  
President  
ANZSVS

Cc:

Dr J. Quinn, EDSA, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Mr Stephen Milgate, CEO, COPS  
Australian Orthopaedic Association