

8 May 2020

Ms Ellie Dwyer
Adjudication
Merger and Authorisation Review
Australian Competition and Consumers Commission
Email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

Dear Ms Dwyer

MTAA-AA10000479 The Medical Technology Association of Australia Limited's application for authorisation AA1000479—interim authorisation decision and interested party consultation

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers and those with an interest in health consumer affairs. We are funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Health Peaks and Advisory Bodies (HPAB) Program. We have around 200 members reflecting a broad spectrum of organisations including state-based consumer peaks, condition-specific groups, volunteer patient groups, professional associations, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) and the research community. We work in collaboration with our members, national partners and research collaborators to influence policy, programs and services to ensure they are in the consumer and community interest.

CHF has always been interested in ensuring that the health system is consumer centred and has been a strong advocate for ensuring there is competition in the provision of all health services and products as we believe this ensures a better deal for consumers. However, the current COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we need to ensure that all health resources, services and products, are brought together in a nationally coordinated way to ensure they are available as and when required. The medical technology industry supplies products which are important to treat and fight the spread of COVID-19 and consumers want to be assured that Australia has access to its expertise and products in a timely and efficient way.

It is clear that suppliers are under increasing pressure to supply essential equipment and related products and it makes good sense that they should be able to communicate with others so as not to waste valuable resources and time duplicating efforts and not filling gaps. The Proposed Conduct and the activities within it meet that requirement.

CHF supports the application for authorisation for the Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) to work with its members and other relevant businesses in the industry to implement a coordinated strategy to ensure the supply of medical equipment and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe the overall benefits to consumers outweigh the

Consumers shaping health

PO Box 73

Deakin West ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 6273 5444

Fax: (02) 6273 5888

www.chf.org.au

risks of loss of competition and its potential impact on price especially as the coordination strategy is designed to improve the supply of essential products.

We support this on the understanding that it is time limited for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and that MTAA will provide regular updates to the ACCC on activities that fit into the Proposed Conduct.

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer
Consumer Health Forum of Australia