

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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Largely unnoticed by the general public, the ACCC is about to authorise Honeysuckle Health the right to negotiate and administer contracts with healthcare providers in Australia (including hospitals, doctors, allied health) for a period of 5 years. Honeysuckle Health is a joint venture between nib Health and the US behemoth health company, CIGNA. The ACCC has acknowledged the risks of reducing competition rather than increasing it, and of creating a monopoly, and has toned down the original proposal.

Medical professionals seem to have unanimously condemned it, citing the risks of moving Australia towards a far inferior, less personal US model of managed health care, all under the guise of “cost effectiveness”. Honeysuckle Health is obviously looking for profit. But surely, we’ve seen so many examples where adding an additional level of bureaucracy between provider and client fails to make the savings that were intended. It just shifts the profits to a middleman.

As a private citizen, I am greatly concerned by these issues too, but also incredulous that the Australian public has been kept in the dark about the fact that they are soon likely to be exposed to the dangers of large-scale data sharing (including genetic data) in this day and age of hacking and ransomware. Just look at the most recent JBS meat supplier cyberattack in the US that has closed meat works in Australia and we can see how vulnerable we all could be.

And yet, it seems to have slipped under the radar and there has been very little attention in the media to alert the public to what could significantly undermine our current healthcare standards and our privacy. I, for one, do not support this proposal. I am not convinced that the risks outweigh any possible benefit.

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Sent from my iPad