

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Exemptions](#)
Subject: [SPAM] Opposition to Authorisation number: AA1000542
Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021 12:22:47 PM

Dear ACCC,

Would like to express my opposition to the 5 year authorisation for NIB/Honeysuckle to collectively negotiate and manage contracts with health care providers.

Large corporations have asymmetric bargaining power compared to most health care providers who are sole traders or small businesses. In time, I am concerned that this will set the precedent for few large companies to control and monopolise health care. This would dictate health care decisions based on cost and profit and would not be in the patients best interest as there is an inherent financial conflict of interest between these for profit insurers and what may be the optimal care for the patients/consumers they serve.

We can already see evidence of this in the UK and United States with their managed care systems whereby health care decisions are often made on financial grounds rather than patient centered care. Australia has a world class system in part because health care providers have not traditionally been tied to this system. I do not want to see a future where we relinquish this liberty.

Multiple health care societies have already voiced their objection to this approval with good reason. The unfair bargaining power by such large companies may initially seem to promote competition, but as has been shown overseas, they will undoubtedly undercut smaller businesses and limit consumer choice in terms of which providers they can see which ultimately will destroy any sense of competition in the long run. I am also concerned that once such a company has a foothold on the market, they will also offer unfair employment contracts. Currently most health care providers are vehemently opposed to such terms as patient care should be separated from the bottom line. However, if health care providers are priced out of the market we will be forced to fall into line with the financial objective set out by large insurers which are inherently not in the best interest of consumers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Xuan Ye
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