From:
To: Exemptions

Subject: Opposite to negotiated health agreements NIB/Honeysuckle

Date: Friday, 28 May 2021 12:25:09 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in strong opposition to the pending authorisation of collective negotiations by NIB/Honeysuckle to begin bargaining agreements with selected health providers.

This change will:

- diminish any selected choice for patients
- restrict experts in their own field from access to patients who require specialised care
- limit the natural competition amongst specialists as it is currently
- is stilted to contravene the constitutional outline referring to the capacity for medical specialists to dictate their private fee structure
- anti-competitive between surgeons who refuse to undergo bargaining agreements and those who do
- likely lead to patients not understanding why they cannot access certain specialists for their care needs, heightening confusion and fear for the medical needs
- lead to a small subgroup of surgeons who may or may not have the requisite capability and sustained expertise for the clinical management of private patients

The natural extension of this managed care approach is a select and enabled small group of willing participants who align to this structure to be wholly promoted by NIB/Honeysuckle agreement which in and of itself is anticompetitive and will be detrimental to patient care and patient choices, which should always be made independent of their health care insurers.

Kind regards,

Andrew Hadj

Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon Senior Lecturer University of Queensland

