



Private Healthcare Australia
Better Cover. Better Access. Better Care.



Honeysuckle Health Buying Group: request for authorisation AA1000733

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About Private Healthcare Australia (PHA)

Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) is the Australian private health insurance industry's peak representative body. We have more than 20 registered health funds throughout Australia as members and collectively represent 99% of people covered by private health insurance. PHA member funds provide healthcare benefits for 15 million Australians.

Introduction

Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the application for authorisation from Honeysuckle Health (HH) Buying Group, authorisation AA1000733.

PHA notes under the existing authorisation, which expires on 13 October 2026, the Applicants are authorised to operate the HH Buying Group, including the Broad Clinical Partners Program, to provide contracting services to registered healthcare payers including private health insurers, international medical and travel insurance companies, government and semi-government payers of health care services, and any other payer of health services as notified (by HH) to the ACCC. The authorised conduct excludes the provision of services to Medibank Private, Bupa, HCF and HBF (in relation to its Western Australian operations).

In 2021, the ACCC determined a net public benefit in authorising the proposed conduct of the HH Buying Group in the face of a sustained campaign from some organisations alleging the HH Buying Group would introduce significant adverse consequences to the Australian health care market. None of the dire predictions made by opponents to the initial authorisation have come to pass. The strident and occasionally hysterical protestations of some in the medical professions have proven to be unfounded, as there is no evidence that actions the HH Buying Group have lessened competition.

PHA supports maintaining operation of the HH Buying Group, and to engage in the same conduct, for an additional 10 years.