From:

To: Exemptions

Subject: AA1000542 – Honeysuckle Health – submission

Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021 9:13:50 PM

Dear ACCC,

It is with alarm and dismay that I hear of the ACCC's draft determination to authorise Honeysuckle Health (Cigna/nib funds) to form a health services buying group.

The agenda for Honeysuckle Health is to introduce US-style managed care to Australia. This would give control of Australian healthcare to commercial interests. It damages the foundations of Australia's world-class healthcare system. It will increase the power of for-profit corporations who will ultimates control the health of Australians.

Our health system is one of the most efficient, and cost-effective in the world. If the ACCC allows this determination to proceed it will fundamentally change this, and begin a dark descent into more costly health care where Australians no longer have the right to choose their doctor, nor for the doctor to dictate how patients will be treated. It will be seen as one of the gravest mistakes that the ACCC has ever made, and be rued by generations of Australians in the future. I am not sure even that the ACCC has the right to change health care in this country so fundamentally – it should be a matter for widespread public debate and decision on the floors of parliament.

I implore the ACCC to see the danger here, and not to allow this determination to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Stephen O'Leary MBBS, BMedSc, PhD, FRACS, FAHMS William Gibson Chair of Otolaryngology, University of Melbourne Senior Otolaryngologist, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

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