

ACCC Info kit for the medical profession

Straight forward and accessible information on how the competition and fair trading laws apply to and protect doctors

A new info kit on doctors' rights and obligations under the competition and fair trading laws—the *ACCC Info kit for the medical profession*—has recently been launched by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The ACCC recognises that doctors have limited time to familiarise themselves with everything they need to know to comply with the competition and fair trading laws. The *ACCC Info kit for the medical profession* has been developed with this in mind.

Designed as a ready reference tool for doctors and practice managers, the *ACCC Info kit for the medical profession* contains short summary guides and leaflets with information on how the Trade Practices Act affects the medical profession. The kit contains:

- *A Prescription for Good Practice*, a handy two page summary of the key issues covered in the kit.
- *Medical roster checkup and leaflet* with guidance on the often misunderstood issue of medical rosters.
- *Anatomy of the ACCC*, explains the role and functions of the ACCC.
- *Diagnosing unconscionable conduct – what does it mean for doctors?* sets out the protection afforded under the Act for doctors subject to harsh or oppressive conduct when dealing with larger parties.
- *Cutting a deal – what doctors need to know about collective negotiations* explains how competition law applies to collective bargaining and agreements.
- *Setting your fees straight* provides guidance on how doctors can set their fees in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- *Straight talking with your patients* explains the fair trading laws relevant to advertising medical services and dealings with patients.

The *ACCC Info kit for the medical profession* brings together information specifically drafted for doctors, drawing on advice and assistance provided by representatives of the medical profession.

The ACCC is undertaking a broad ranging and intensive program to distribute the Info kits, to ensure that all GPs, specialists and other medical professionals are aware of the Info kit and its contents. The ACCC is responsive to complaints and inquiries, and staff will provide guidance to doctors on their rights and obligations under the Act.

The *ACCC Info kit for the medical profession* is a free publication. For copies or further information contact the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502, or the ACCC website www.accc.gov.au.