

NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS

POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLICATION OF THE HEALTH MARKET INQUIRY (HMI) PROVISIONAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT FOR ONE MONTH TO 31 MAY 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

1. On 21 November 2017 the HMI issued a Notice to all stakeholders announcing changes to the Administrative Timetable. In terms of these changes, the Provisional Findings and Recommendations Report (the Provisional Report) was due to be published on 30 April 2018.
2. The HMI subsequently also published a series of nine analytical reports in December 2017 and invited stakeholders, through a Notice published on 19 December 2017, to engage with the content of these reports and make submissions thereon to the Panel by 31 January 2018.
3. In order to facilitate a fair opportunity to comment on the published expenditure analyses reports, the HMI opened a Data Access Room, in terms of Supplementary Guideline No. 2, to allow stakeholders external experts and advisors access to the underlying confidential information and data considered by the Panel, in the compilation of the expenditure reports.
4. During January and February 2018, the HMI received written submissions from the following stakeholders, in response to the Notice of 19 December 2017:
 - Council for Medical Schemes (CMS);
 - Discovery Health;
 - Medscheme Holdings;
 - National Hospital Network;
 - The Ophthalmological Society of South Africa (OSSA);
 - The South African Society Of Anaesthesiologists (SASA);
 - The South African Orthopaedic Association (SAOA);
 - The Health Funders Association (HFA); and
 - The South African Society for Cardiovascular Intervention (SASCI).

5. In addition, the HMI received formal applications for access to review its underlying data, through the Data Access Room process, from the following stakeholders:
 - Netcare Limited
 - Life Healthcare; and
 - Mediclinic.

All three stakeholder applications were approved by the Panel for their respective external experts to review the underlying data in the Data Access Room.

6. The above stakeholders accessed the Data Access Room on various occasions from 25 January 2018 to 28 March 2018, as they required additional time to complete their analyses, in order to respond to the HMI expenditure reports. The latest stakeholder response was only received by the HMI on 13 April 2018.
7. As such, the Panel has taken a decision to postpone the publication of the HMI Provisional Report for one month, to **31 May 2018**, in order to afford time to the HMI's experts to interrogate and assess the issues raised in the stakeholder responses, and to advise the Panel of any issues of materiality that may require consideration.
8. The Panel is aware of the public interest surrounding the release of the HMI Provisional Report, but has taken the decision to postpone the publication thereof to 31 May 2018 in the interests of procedural fairness and to ensure that its whole process has been adequately checked and validated.
9. The Panel do not anticipate any further changes to the overall timeframes for completion of the Inquiry.

Issued on: 23 April 2018

Clint Oellermann

Inquiry Director