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Subject: ACCC Inquiry

If submissions to the Inquiry are still being received, I should like to add the following.

In my view the purpose of the ACCC is highly commendable, and the value to the Australian community as a whole has been exceptional under the chairmanship of Professor Alan Fels.

At present it seems to me that the remit of the ACCC tends to approach the bare minimum. It would be most desirable, in the interests of the health and well-being of all Australians, were its remit to be strengthened, its independence reinforced, and its activities pursued with at least the same dedication and commitment to fairness and justice that the present Commission has exercised.

Acceptance of perceived pressures and lobbying to undermine the Commission's effective functioning would be extremely short-sighted, I believe. There are few enough examples in the world of societies striving to build sound democracies and opportunities for good lives for all their citizens, and Australia has so far been among the few. If its efforts in this direction are to be successful, it needs at the very least to encourage, protect, and foster the vigorous and thoroughly independent operation of bodies such as the ACCC.

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