Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

Submission No: 2

Submitted by: Kennyth Woods

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10 Jan 2024 Committee SecretaryEconomics and Governance CommitteeParliament House

George street Brisbane QLD 4000Re: Committee inquiry into the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023 Major ConcernsDear Committee Secretary,I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding several aspects of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023, specifically highlighted in various clauses that warrant immediate attention and revision.Clause 8 – Definition of Pharmacy Services as Core Pharmacy Services:Despite multiple instances of feedback provided, the current definition of core pharmacy services within the context of what constitutes a pharmacy business remains excessively narrow. This narrow definition fails to align with the evolving landscape of modern pharmacy practices. Consequently, it inadequately portrays the scope of pharmacy services, thereby compromising the effectiveness of subsequent clauses, notably 20(2) & 22(2)(b).Clause 11 – Definition of a Supermarket:The existing definition of a supermarket outlined in the Bill exhibits limitations in its scope, notably its failure to encompass online supermarkets. To ensure the longevity and applicability of the Bill, it is imperative to include provisions that explicitly reference online services within this definition.Clause 13 – Material Interest in a Pharmacy:The current definition of a material interest falls short in comprehensiveness and ought to incorporate the terminology ‘legal and beneficial’. This inclusion is crucial to precisely delineate the interests necessitating registration under the Act, ensuring compliance with legislative intent regarding lawful registrations.Clauses 147, 150, 153, 207 – Relating to the Regulatory Council:It is imperative that the council mandated by the Bill is obliged to publish the register of licensed pharmacy businesses on its website. Furthermore, the council’s jurisdiction should remain focused solely on matters concerning pharmacy business ownership and licensing. Expanding its mandate to include functions unrelated to pharmacy businesses is unnecessary.Additionally, the composition of the council raises significant concerns. The absence of defined limitations allows potential imbalances where pharmacy business owners might be outnumbered. There is an urgent need to address this imbalance by setting clear guidelines for council member composition, encompassing pharmacy owners, employees, consumer representatives, legal experts, among others.Furthermore, the absence of term limits for council members is a matter of concern and warrants rectification to ensure a fair and democratic process within the council's operations.I urge the committee to consider these critical issues during the review process of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023. Your attention to these concerns is pivotal in ensuring the effectiveness and fairness of the proposed legislation.Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to a resolution that addresses these concerns and safeguards the interests of all stakeholders involved in the pharmacy sector.Sincerely,Kennyth Blaine Woods BPharm MPSProprietor