

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

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Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Date 01/01/2024

Via: [EGC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:<EGC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Committee inquiry into the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

As the owner of Coorparoo Discount Pharmacy and a pharmacy owner in Queensland, I hold the following concerns about the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and provide feedback on specific clauses within the proposed Pharmacy ownership bill related to pharmacy services and regulations. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the legislative process and believe that addressing these concerns will contribute to the effectiveness of the bill.

1. **Clause 8 – Definition of Pharmacy Services as Core Pharmacy Services:** Despite repeated feedback, the definition of core pharmacy services, in relation to what constitutes a pharmacy business, remains overly narrow. The current definition does not adequately reflect modern pharmacy practices, leading to potential complications in addressing issues outlined in subsequent clauses, such as 20(2) and 22(2)(b).
2. **Clause 11 – Definition of a Supermarket:** The current definition in the bill concerning supermarkets is limited in scope and fails to incorporate provisions for online supermarkets. To future-proof the bill, it is essential to include references to online services within this clause to align with the evolving landscape of retail.
3. **Clause 13 – Material Interest in a Pharmacy:** The definition of a material interest is inadequate as it stands, and I recommend incorporating the words 'legal and beneficial.' This inclusion is crucial for providing clarity when registering interests under the act, ensuring that only lawful interests are eligible for registration as intended by the legislature.
4. **Clauses 147, 150, 153, 207 – Relating to the Regulatory Council:**
 - The council must publish information from the register of licensed pharmacy businesses on the council's website to ensure transparency and accessibility to relevant stakeholders.

- The council's remit should be narrow, focusing exclusively on pharmacy business ownership and licensing. There is no need for the council to have functions related to commenting on other acts.
- The current composition of the council is unacceptable. The potential for pharmacy business owners to be outnumbered exists, as there is only a requirement for at least one pharmacy owner without any limits on other potential members, such as employees, consumer representatives, or lawyers. Additionally, the absence of term limits for council members raises concerns about accountability and diversity of representation over time.

I trust that these concerns will be carefully considered, and I appreciate your dedication to creating legislation that best serves the needs of our community. Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Sophia Ligouras

Coorparoo Discount Pharmacy

