

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

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WALLUMBILLA PHARMACY

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

10th January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023. As a pharmacy owner in Queensland, I do have some concerns about a few areas. Some small tweaks at this point could save a lot of tinkering down the track.

The definition of core pharmacy services (Clause 8(3)) doesn't adequately describe what pharmacists do and is too narrow. This could allow non-pharmacist entities to exert some control over services that aren't specifically mentioned in the current draught. The definition needs to refer to "pharmacy services" and defined as: health services (including dispensing, supply, prescribing, selling, administering, repackaging, compounding, possessing, disposing of medicines and the provision of clinical service or advice (either at or from a licensed premises or through digital platforms)) provided in the course of practice by a pharmacist or a person who holds themselves out, or is held out by another, as a pharmacist;

The definition of a supermarket (Clause 11(3)) is too narrow and would need to be amended in the very near future to cover the increasing presence of online supermarkets. Better to get it done right the first time, by defining supermarkets as "premises or online store used primarily for selling a range of food, beverages, groceries and other domestic goods".

Clause 13 regarding material interest is inadequate and needs to include the terms "legal" and "beneficial". Without these terms, it could result in interests that are not expressed in the current definition not able to be deemed unlawful interests. Clause 13(1)(c) should say:

(c) any other interest, *legal* or *beneficial* in the business, other than an interest of an owner of the business.

(2) to remove any doubt, an interest includes, but is not limited to, having a right to receive consideration directly or indirectly that varies according to the profits or takings of the pharmacy business.

The Council must publish the information contained in the register on the council's website- the public have a right to know who owns the pharmacy they are dealing with (Clause 205(5)).

The composition of the council membership must contain a majority of pharmacy owners- those that work in the industry know the industry best (Clause 150(4)).

There should be a limit to the number of times a member may be reappointed, to ensure current and fresh perspectives are brought to the council. A reasonable limit would be two terms- like the President of the USA! (What would the world be like if Donald Trump made himself President for life? Putin's Russia?) Clause 153(2).

Yours sincerely,



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