

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

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Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
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Subject: Concerns and Proposed Amendments to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill
2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention certain apprehensions I have as a pharmacy owner in Queensland regarding the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023.

Concerns Regarding the Definition of Core Pharmacy Services (Clause 8(3)):

The current version of the Bill lacks a comprehensive definition of pharmacy services, limiting it to the dispensing and compounding of medicines. This narrow scope does not accurately reflect the multifaceted services provided by pharmacists. The definition needs expansion to include a broader range of services, such as health services, clinical advice, and digital platform offerings.

Proposed Change:

To broaden the definition of 'core pharmacy services' to encompass a comprehensive range of pharmacy activities conducted by licensed pharmacists. Such 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;

Issues with the Definition of a Supermarket (Clause 11(3)):

The current definition of a supermarket fails to account for the growing presence of online supermarket businesses. The inclusion of 'premises' restricts the term to physical locations, thereby excluding online marketplaces. To align with the Bill's objective of prohibiting licenses for pharmacy businesses in supermarkets, the definition should encompass both physical and online establishments.

Proposed Change:

To redefine a supermarket as a premises or online store primarily engaged in selling food, beverages, groceries, and other domestic goods.

Concerns Relating to the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council (Clauses 147, 150, 153, 207):

The absence of a mandatory requirement to list the register of licensed pharmacy businesses on the council's website hinders transparency. Additionally, the proposed composition of the council membership is unacceptable. The council is an industry body and should compose of a majority of industry experts. To effectively function the council's composition requires adjustments to ensure it consists of a majority of pharmacy business owner members. Finally, introducing limits on the number of terms a council member can serve will promote a contemporary and representative council.

Proposed Changes:

Amend Clause 207(5) to mandate the council to publish the register on its website.

Adjust 150(4) to address concerns related to the council's functions and composition.

Introduce a limit on the number of terms a council member can serve in Clause 153(2).

I appreciate your consideration of these proposed amendments, and I am available for further discussion if needed. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Rodger BPharm

Pharmacy Owner