

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

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Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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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

I am a pharmacy owner of a Queensland pharmacy on the Gold Coast and am actively involved in my business at the local community. I am a strong advocate of the pharmacy profession and hope that this Bill achieves its objective of promoting the safe and competent provision of pharmacy services and to maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession. The council will be welcomed and bring us in line with other states but I do have some concerns with some of the definitions in the Bill and the ability of the Council to achieve the Bill's objective if these are not reviewed. I have outlined my concerns and provided some suggested changes below.

1. The definition of core pharmacy services (Clause 8(3))

- In the current version of the Bill, it does not accurately describe what services are offered in a pharmacy. To limit the provision of services to only dispensing and compounding does not reflect current practice. Whilst dispensing is a core service provided, we also offer counselling, medication advice, general health/clinical advice, medication packing, immunisations, diagnosis and soon we will have the ability to prescribe.
- To ensure that this Bill encapsulates the services offered and is able to deal with the concept of *external control*, the definition needs to be broadened to cover the range of pharmacy services offered now and in the future.

2. The definition of a supermarket (Clause 11(3))

- The definition of a supermarket is not broad enough to capture online supermarkets which are already in operation around the world. To ensure a pharmacy licence is not granted to a supermarket, whether it is a physical store or online, the definition must be changed to mention each specifically. A supermarket means a premises or online store used primarily for selling a range of food, beverages, groceries and other domestic goods.

3. What is a material interest in a pharmacy business (Clause 13)

- The concept of a 'material interest' is introduced in the bill but the definition is inadequate in capturing the interest that may be held in a pharmacy business. Failure to define this may mean that certain interests will not be able to be deemed unlawful and will dilute the ability of the Bill to meet its objective.
- The definition needs to include ANY interest in a pharmacy business where the right to receive profits of the business or takings may occur

4. Matters relating to the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council (the council) (Clauses 147, 150, 153, 207)

- To ensure that the public has confidence in the industry, I believe there should be a mandatory requirement that the register of licensed pharmacy businesses is listed on the council's website.
- The council is funded by the industry to perform a critical function in registering and licensing pharmacy businesses. The function of the council must not be diluted by becoming involved in the functions of any other Act.
- The council is an industry body that has the potential to be weighted inappropriately, where industry experts may be significantly outnumbered. There must be a majority of pharmacy business owner members to ensure that the council is able to function as intended.
- There is currently no limit to the number of terms that a member of the council is permitted to serve. To ensure a contemporary and representative council, there should be a limit of 2 consecutive terms and a total number of terms that a member is permitted to serve. The term of membership is one year longer than councils in other states and territories, so a maximum number of terms is needed.

Yours sincerely

Alex Chung B'PHARM

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