

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

Submission No: 18
Submitted by: Carina Finn
Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
12/01/2024

Via: EGC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Committee inquiry into the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

As the managing partner in a pharmacy in Central Queensland, I look forward to the implementation of a pharmacy Council in Qld but I do hold some concerns in relation to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023.

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

The current version of the Bill does not adequately define what a pharmacy service is. I am actively involved in my local community in Rockhampton and the services we provide at this pharmacy are far more diverse than the definition contained in the Bill that just covers dispensing and compounding. At this pharmacy, we do little to no compounding of medications but we offer vaccinations, medication packaging, clinical advice, medication disposal, counselling and in the near future we will be participating in the expanded scope so diagnosis and prescribing will also be offered. By only defining pharmacy services as dispensing and compounding, it limits how the Bill is able to deal with the concept of external control of how pharmacy services are delivered to the public (clause 22). The definition needs to be broadened to include the above services offered as well as others that can be offered in Queensland pharmacies now and in the future.

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

The definition of a supermarket is not broad enough to cover the online supermarkets. The current definition ties the concept of supermarket to a physical bricks and mortar location and therefore there is a risk that a pharmacy licence may be granted to an online supermarket. This is directly against the policy objective to 'prohibit the council from issuing a licence if the pharmacy business is located in a supermarket' and therefore the definition needs to be reviewed to ensure online businesses are included.

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

The definition of a material interest is inadequate in capturing the different interests that may be held in a pharmacy business. This may leave too many ways that individuals or businesses may hold interest in a pharmacy and be outside of the Bill and therefore not be deemed as unlawful. The definition must include the words **legal** and **beneficial** or cover **any** interest in a pharmacy where there is a right to receive profits or takings of the business.

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

- One of the main purposes of the Bill is to maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession. To ensure this can be achieved, there should be a mandatory requirement to list all pharmacies on the Council website listing the business and its current owner/s.
- The council is to perform a critical function in registering and licensing pharmacy businesses and this 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 to the number of consecutive terms, and terms in total, that a member is permitted to serve.

Thank you for taking the time to review my suggestions.

Yours sincerely


Carina Finn
