

Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

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

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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 own a pharmacy in North Queensland and have some concerns in relation to the Pharmacy Ownership Bill that has been presented to parliament. I have been involved in community pharmacy for more than forty years and believe it is a fantastic industry that needs to be supported, so am in support of the introduction of a council but it must be able to serve its intended purpose. I believe the few changes outlined below will ensure that the members can do this now and into the future.

Clause 8(3) does not accurately define what pharmacists do these days, the industry has changed and is continuing to do so and the definition must be kept relevant. Pharmacists no longer just dispense and compound medication but provide a plethora of services and advice to patients every day and often we are their main point of call for health advice. The current definition is too narrow and needs to be updated as if control of the pharmacy is linked to the current definition of *core pharmacy services* then much of what we do will be outside of the control of the Bill. I would request your review of this definition to be more reflective of current and future practice in the state of QLD.

There has always been a risk of supermarkets getting pharmacy licences and I sincerely appreciate this Bill aims to prohibit this from happening. I do worry that with the increase in online supermarket businesses, that the proposed definition in Clause 11(3), does not make mention of these businesses but rather refers to 'premises' implying a physical bricks and mortar location. I would request the definition be changed to make sure it covers both physical and online businesses.

The term 'material interest' has long been used but not defined and while the Bill tries to do this in Clause 13, it does not capture all of the interests that may be held in a business and therefore may not be able to hold those accountable for holding non-material interests. I would like this definition to be strengthened to include the terms **legal** and **beneficial** or to be **any interest** to ensure that any unlawful interests can be dealt with appropriately by the council.

This Bill aims to maintain public confidence in community pharmacy and therefore I believe that the public should be able to see all licenced pharmacies in Queensland and their current owner/s.

As this is an industry body, I believe that the majority of the council member should be practicing community pharmacy owners as they have the best understanding of the industry, requirements and will ensure the council remains relevant. In addition to this, all council members must have a maximum length of term, once again to ensure relevance and a current understanding of the Bill and industry.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response to the Bill and I believe that with these changes this will be a positive thing for the industry and all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



Leonie Brown



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