

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 currently an owner of a pharmacy in Queensland and I currently have some concerns about the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023 and I appreciate you taking the time to hear my concerns.

The Definition of Core Pharmacy Services (Clause 8(3))

I believe that the version of the Bill at this stage it does not correctly define what a pharmacy service is. The current definition of a pharmacy service is very narrow and does not truly encompass the services that pharmacists provide our community.

With the scope of pharmacy services continuing to grow we need to give a broader definition what constitutes core pharmacy services. I believe Pharmacy services should include at least dispensing, supply, prescribing, selling, administering, repackaging, compounding, possessing, disposing of medicines and the provision of clinical service or advice.

This list of services is only going to increase once the extended scope of practice comes into full effect. By making sure a better definition is in the Bill it reduces the risk that a number of relevant pharmacy services will be left outside the regulatory control of the Bill.

The Definition Of A Supermarket (Clause 11(3))

The definition of a supermarket is not broad enough to capture the likely increase in online supermarket businesses in the future. The world is increasingly becoming more digitised and by using the word 'premises' in the definition it provides a potential loophole in the future for supermarkets to operate pharmacies in an online capacity.

I believe that a supermarket definition needs to mention their online capacity to futureproof this Bill from the continued progression towards online shopping. A more adequate definition would be

- **supermarket** means a premises or online store used primarily for selling a range of food, beverages, groceries and other domestic goods.

What Is A Material Interest In A Pharmacy Business (Clause 13)

The definition of a material interest in a pharmacy business should include the terms legal and beneficial. This is important because if it is not include these terms interests that are not expressed in the current definition may not be able to be deemed unlawful interests.

A more appropriate definition would be

Clause 13(1)(c)

(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 existing clause 13(2) would be renumbered 13(3).

Matters Relating To The Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council (The Council) (Clauses 147, 150, 153, 207)

The pharmacy council is funded by the industry to be involved in the registering and licensing of pharmacy businesses. I don't believe the council should be functioning outside this and becoming involved in things outside of this.

This Bill is supposed to help maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession. For this to be achieved, It should be requirement that the register of licensed pharmacy businesses is listed on the council's website. This ensures transparency for the public, so that they know who the owner of the pharmacy is.

I believe that council needs to have a larger proportion of Pharmacy owners as they are the industry experts, and it doesn't make sense to have those with the most knowledge on pharmacy to potentially be a minority. Also, the members should have term limits of two or three terms this will keep the council current and avoid stagnation.

Yours sincerely

John Allen Clark

