

## 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'm a community pharmacy owner in Queensland, I still have some concerns even after providing feedback several times in the last 18 months. I encourage further consideration by the committee to firm up ownership laws in Queensland for those in business now, and for those who are yet to buy into a pharmacy business in the future. The current Bill, in its current form, proposes deregulating the community pharmacy industry, allowing individuals outside the pharmacy profession to possess a 'commercial material interest' in our establishments. I firmly believe that only pharmacists should be permitted to own community pharmacy businesses.

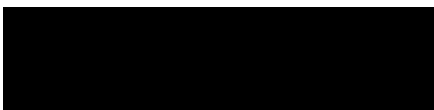
The primary goal of the Bill is to uphold public trust and confidence in the pharmacy profession. While the proposed register of licensed pharmacy businesses aims to enhance transparency and regulatory compliance, it is unacceptable that the register would not be made publicly available or mandatory.

The definition of a material interest is inadequate in capturing the interest that may be held in a pharmacy business. This inconsistency with other regions necessitates an amendment to include the terms 'legal' and 'beneficial.' To eliminate any ambiguity, an interest should encompass the right to receive consideration directly or indirectly based on the profits or takings of the pharmacy business.

In this Bill, the definition of a supermarket is not broad enough to capture the likely increase in online supermarket businesses in the future. To ensure that the objective of the Bill to 'prohibit the council from issuing a licence if the pharmacy business is located in a supermarket' is met, the Bill must have application to pharmacy businesses and supermarkets whether they are online or physical locations. A supermarket needs to be defined as a physical premise or online store whose purpose is selling food, beverages, groceries, and other household and/or domestic items.

It's important for regulatory bodies to take into account feedback and input from the people that this Bill has potential to negatively impact; both pharmacists and their businesses and the patients they care for daily. By considering these concerns the committee can work toward making changes that align with community expectations. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback at this time.

Kind regards,



Ameet Jeraj

