

## Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023

**Submission No:** 56  
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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 want to express my gratitude that the government has been taking important steps to amend the proposed Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill; it has been greatly appreciated that consideration has been given to the previous feedback. However, further development is required.

As it stands, the Bill will deregulate the Community Pharmacy industry and allow non pharmacists to own a 'commercial material interest' in our industry; pharmacists should be the only person/profession to own a community pharmacy business.

Having worked as a community Pharmacist in the United Kingdom I have had first hand experience working within a deregulated Pharmacy model. Standard practice in the case of these businesses was to implement many barriers to prevent a patient from directly accessing a Pharmacist for healthcare advice. Additionally store managers, with no Pharmacy experience would run promotions with expected sales targets for the Pharmacy staff, without consideration for patient need. Reduced public access to the expertise of a Pharmacist and business practices that prioritise profit in favour of patient outcomes would be to the detriment of patient orientated care, and potentially health outcomes.

One of the main purposes of this Bill is to preserve the public's trust and confidence in the pharmacy profession. The proposed register of licensed pharmacy businesses will create transparency within the industry ensuring that all regulations are followed. What is not acceptable is that the register would not be publicly available or compulsory.

The pharmacy services landscape is rapidly evolving, and any definition needs to align with contemporary pharmacy practices. Currently, the definition is far too narrow and requires to be much broader and more comprehensive to accurately reflect what services are provided. We provide so much more for our patients than just compounding and dispensing of medicines; it is a disservice to our profession and the knowledge and experience we have to be pigeonholed like this.

With the likely increase of online supermarket businesses, the definition of a supermarket needs to be updated to ensure it is uniquely defined as selling food, beverages, groceries, and other household items. Having clarity of what a supermarkets primary purpose is sets it apart from a pharmacy business and is in the best interests of our patient's healthcare.

The community has high expectations of pharmacy and the services provided in Queensland, and I believe the proposed changes still don't meet those expectations. I am proud of the work pharmacists do for our patients and the wider community, so I urge you to consider my feedback.

Kind regards,

Jason Keily

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