

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

As a current owner of community pharmacies in Queensland I look forward to the introduction of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023 but I would request your review of a few elements of it to ensure that it is able to meet its intended purpose.

1. As a pharmacist in regional North Queensland, me and my pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers in the region. As such, we provide a diverse range of services to our community and the definition in the Bill does not accurately reflect our role. The current definition is limited to dispensing and compounding of medications and must be change to capture what pharmacists do more accurately. The risk otherwise is that services other than dispensing and compounding will be outside of the scope of the bill and therefore not regulated appropriately which would be detrimental to the public and the perception of the community pharmacy industry. I request your review of this definition and ensure it is more representative of pharmacists roles now and into the future.
2. One of the objectives of this Bill is to 'prohibit the council from issuing a licence if the pharmacy business is located in a supermarket' and the current definition of supermarket is not broad enough to ensure that this does not occur. With the increase in online supermarkets in the future, the definition in the Bill must include mention of online businesses as well as physical premises. If it does not, then there is a risk that a pharmacy licence will be granted to an online supermarket.
3. The Bill introduces the concept of 'material interest' in a pharmacy business but it does not go on to describe what this is accurately enough. It is left open to too much interpretation and is not in line with other jurisdictions around the country. The definition of this concept must be further explored and be in line with other states.
4. The composition of the council must be made up of those who have an indepth understanding of the Bill and the industry and therefore I believe that the majority of members should be current pharmacy owners. This will ensure that the council can meet its objectives and function as it is intended to.
5. The council must have a clear remit that is limited to the licencing and registration of pharmacies within the state of Queensland.

6. Council members should only be allowed to serve up to a maximum of 2 consecutive terms otherwise there is a risk that members may remain the same for far too long and the council not serve the intended purpose and be relevant.

I appreciate you taking the time to review this submission.

Yours sincerely

Bianca Hope

