



Our **Mission** is to prevent child sexual assault in our society.  
Our **Vision** is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

26/06/2018

Committee Secretary  
HCDSDFVPC  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Hansen,

**RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland**

We have been made aware of the abovementioned Inquiry, and we write to submit our views on issues within the terms of reference of this Inquiry.

Bravehearts is Australia's leading child protection organisation and we have had a longstanding relationship with the pharmacy sector, given their role in providing primary healthcare services to children and families suffering from abuse or violence.

Given the place of the local pharmacy at the heart of many communities, and the ease with which parents and children can access health advice and support, we see that any change in legislation which impacts pharmacies will have an impact on the people for whom we advocate.

This is why we were alarmed when we discovered in the terms of reference of this inquiry, a review of the current rules, which govern the ownership of community-based pharmacies.

We believe that any deregulation of current laws of ownership threatens the existence of independent, community-based pharmacies in Queensland. We believe the current model of community pharmacy serves parents and children well and offers families easy and mostly free access to health services in their community and with minimal barriers.

Bravehearts rejects any plans to deregulate pharmacy ownership in Queensland and we certainly don't to have to rely on big business to be there when we need them to care for vulnerable people.

Our clients rely on pharmacies as an important 'first point of contact', particularly those clients who live in rural and remote areas, whose healthcare options are frequently limited.

**Bravehearts Foundation Ltd. Bravehearts.org.au**

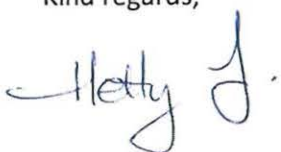
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In order to fight family violence and child sexual abuse, we need community services to stay in the hands of the community. Having trusted pharmacists in the community can give children suffering from sexual violence a point of contact, without the need for an appointment. Pharmacists who are connected to their communities, as is often the case, can help to create safer communities by looking out for their customers, whatever their circumstances may be.

The deregulation of pharmacy ownership may see community pharmacies disappear in rural and remote communities, and lead to big business takeover of pharmacies. Families and communities would no longer have a health professional to call on in their community.

Please consider the important role community pharmacies play in helping organisations like Bravehearts to serve the community when making any recommendations regarding the deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hetty J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hetty Johnston AM

**Founder and Executive Chair**

**Bravehearts Foundation Ltd. [Bravehearts.org.au](https://bravehearts.org.au)**

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