

Pharmacy

From: Matthew Calanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2018 10:05 AM
To: Pharmacy
Subject: [SPAM ?] Letter to Committee Secretary - Pharmacy Ownership Inquiry
Attachments: Pharmcy Ownership Inquiry.pdf

Importance: Low

Categories: Submission

Dear Mr Hansen,

Please find attached a letter for your consideration regarding the Establishment of the Pharmacy Ownership Inquiry you are leading.

This is a matter for serious concern as it will affect the livelihood of many regional and rural pharmacy business owners and the access to pharmacy services and support that people of this state are in need of. It will also cause an additional cost burden to the state when people are flooding state run hospitals and health clinics as a result of medication becoming just a commodity as it will in the hands of big business.

Putting pharmacy ownership in the hands of corporates and big business is not the solution and continuing the ownership and location laws for pharmacy is of paramount importance to the health of this state.

Please contact me any time should you require further comment.

Warm Regards,

Matthew Calanna | B.Pharm MACP

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Committee Secretary

HCDSDFVPC

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hansen,

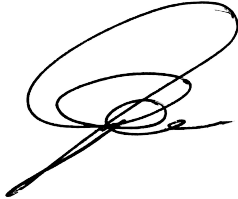
RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland

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.

- Allowing deregulation of the pharmacy sector will have many serious implications for not only the industry but the access to health services that the people of this state are accustomed to and should have access to.
- Deregulation threatens pharmacies and will result in the closure of pharmacies in rural and remote areas, eliminating a vital service for these communities. Queensland in particular is a very spread out and diverse state. Pharmacy in its present ownership model and location rule model allows equitable access to health care services and PBS medicines that only this model can provide. Deregulation of this model will only serve, over time, to have big business take a large stake in the industry which always leads to rationalisation, cost cutting by way of reducing outlets, access and jobs in the medium to long term.
- Access to the most accessible health professional, the pharmacist, would disappear. There are currently 1,140 pharmacies in Queensland, employing approximately 4,500 pharmacists. The Pharmacy Guild estimates that the sector employs approximately 12,000 Queenslanders including pharmacists and pharmacy assistants. Many of these jobs will be on the line if this proposed deregulated model moves ahead.
- Pharmacies in Queensland are the most frequently visited and accessible primary healthcare destination in the State, with more than 70 million individual patient visits annually. The pharmacist is accessible, without an appointment, and primarily advice is provided without charge.
- Closures of pharmacies will occur as a result of deregulation and this will threaten the jobs of these healthcare providers and increase the healthcare burden on GPs and the hospital system adding costs to the state. Closures will threaten, in particular, access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote communities.
- Deregulation would bring many unintended consequences and scenarios that create moral hazard. Everyone acknowledges that supermarkets, with their selling of cigarettes and alcohol should automatically rule them out of owning pharmacies. Doctor and medical corporates should also not be allowed to own pharmacies and thus profit from the more medicines they prescribe, this is a complete conflict of interest. Equally drug manufacturers should not own pharmacies; again this is a conflict of interest. The list goes on and on and unintended consequences will certainly result.

We urge you to consider this position along with the position of the Pharmacy Guild very seriously. The community pharmacy model operates exceptionally well across the state and the nation for that matter. It maintains the integrity of the pharmacy profession which is one of the most trusted professions in the country. Along with that it maintains the integrity of the pharmaceutical benefits scheme and provides reliable, accessible and quality health care services to the state of Queensland.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Calanna', with a large loop at the top and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Matthew Calanna B.Pharm

General Manager

Calanna Whole Health Pharmacy