

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

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

3rd July 2018

Dear Mr Hansen,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I write to you today as we have been made aware of the abovementioned inquiry, and the review of the laws ensuring that pharmacies are owned by pharmacists, and not by corporations who have little interest in the genuine wellbeing of our patients and the greater community.

I personally have been in pharmacy for literally my whole life – from an infant in a cot in the back of the pharmacy whilst my mother cared for her local community in Victoria in the front of the pharmacy, to now at 31 years of age in partnership with her in Mt Gravatt. We have been serving the local Mt Gravatt community for over 25 years now and have formed a very close relationship with our community.

Not only do we see patients within our pharmacy, we venture out to support local Retirement villages, Blue Care, schools and businesses. We provide seminars to inform the public about current health issues. We deliver emergency medications after hours in our own time to those that cannot come into our pharmacy. An example of this was a patient who had gone without his Anti-retroviral medication for 2 days and needed it desperately to avoid possible hospitalization. Would a corporation care enough to do that?

We also employ 6 pharmacists and another 12 support staff made up of Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents and Pharmacy Students. The livelihood of all of these people and their families will be severely jeopardized if deregulation were to occur.


Pharmacy in Queensland is the most accessible health care service currently offered to the public with over 70 million visits each year. The argument for deregulation improving accessibility is unfounded. Deregulation will in fact reduce accessibility to a pharmacist as demonstrated in other countries where this has been implemented. It will also virtually abolish all of the additional counselling and health services we conduct in pharmacy which is the fundamental reasons why we are consistently voted within the top 3 most trusted professions.

While we understand there are other matters before the inquiry, our main concern is ensuring that community pharmacies continue to be able to support their communities. We request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and recommend against deregulation.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you, and all members involved in the inquiry to visit our pharmacy to see what we do, and the rapport we have with our local community.

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Kind regards,



Zamil Solanki
Proprietor