

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: Fw: Pharmacy attacked again
Date: Thursday, 12 July 2018 6:41:02 AM

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Friday, July 6, 2018, 4:38 PM, [REDACTED]

To Whom it may concern,

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

I write to you as we have been made aware of the aforementioned inquiry, and wish to express our views.

My name is Michael Beard and I'm a Pharmacist in Townsville Queensland, where I own 2 pharmacies with my wife Angela.

Our small community pharmacies serve the ageing populations of Aitkenvale and Wulguru. We have dedicated our working lives and life savings to help the community through our pharmacys. We love the profession and are very passionate about improving peoples health as one of the most respected and accessible health professions in Australia. There are always challenges as in every profession, however it seems pharmacy has become the punching bag of State and Federal Governments over the past six or so years. Reduced income to pharmacies to the point where our very viability has been pushed to the limit and of course the threat of deregulation, or changes to location rules which threaten the fabric of our health system and pharmacy. In Queensland Pharmacists see around 70 million individual patient visits annually where they are primarily giving advice without an appointment and mostly without charging for our services. What other profession does this.

The possible deregulation of Pharmacy in Queensland or across Australia would be at the detriment of each and every person within the above state and Country. Pharmacy distribution and access will be reduced as many will be amalgamated and rural and remote areas would be the ones hurt most with many closures. The burden on the health system will be increased significantly with increased doctor and hospital visits. Pharmacists are regulated by law, a code of ethics and moral responsibility to the patients we serve. Who better is there to look after the health of the community through pharmaceutical advice and medications? The large drug companies and those such as Coles and Woolworths who will always

put profits above patient outcomes and needs. Should they sell alcohol and cigarettes in their pharmacy's?

Doctor and medical corporates should not be allowed to own pharmacies and thus profit from increased prescribing of medicines. Equally drug manufacturers should not own pharmacies. How can you deregulate pharmacy and stop the above from owning pharmacy's and other groups/individuals which would be at a detriment to the community. Pharmacists are one of the most trusted health professions in Queensland and Australia. Our current regulation although not perfect has served the community well over the past and will continue into the future if commonsense prevails.

I implore every person within the committee to look at the vital role pharmacist owned pharmacies perform in our communities. If you aren't convinced of the importance, please contact me and come spend a day in our pharmacies with my wife and I. I hope you are all able to see the benefit of the current regulation of pharmacy and ensure our future is secure so we can continue to serve our communities.

Regards

Michael and Angela Beard
Pharmacists and Owners of
Wulguru Pharmacy and Aitkenvale Medical Centre Pharmacy

