

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**

Having recently been made aware of this Inquiry, I wish to voice my concerns as the owner of a community pharmacy in Queensland.

I understand the committee is looking into the scope of practice for pharmacists and would be supportive of any extension which allows me to provide additional services to my community.. This would allow simple but vital health services (e.g. flu vaccinations and screening for diabetes and lung disease etc) to be easily accessible for patients.

I support the government setting up a pharmacy council to oversee these types of programs and ensure that the regulations are being enforced . However, I am concerned about the review of ownership laws and what this will mean for my pharmacy.

I am the owner of *HealthSave Everton Park Pharmacy* and am worried the corporatisation of pharmacies will threaten my business and the profession in general. I am very passionate about my pharmacy, so to have my business undercut by big corporations with no passion for pharmacy, or for my community, would be a terrible outcome.

Regarding the level of health care for patients, I believe this will suffer under a corporate model. We become pharmacists to provide quality health care for those in need, so as a pharmacy owner, my primary responsibility is to provide quality health care. For large corporations such as Coles or Woolworths etc, their focus would be on shareholders and bottom line profit ahead of the patients' welfare and that would present a serious conflict of interest and poor health outcomes for our patients, the large majority of whom are elderly, unwell & in many cases suffering from physical and/or mental disabilities.

Pharmacies have an important part to play as providers of primary health care – please do not underestimate the services we provide to our communities. I would invite you to visit our businesses and observe first- hand what actually happens at our coalface. There are over 1,100 pharmacist-owned pharmacies in Queensland providing quality health services, programs, medicines and medication advice – please consider these hard-working and passionate pharmacies before you decide to allow supermarket chains to enter the market and take over our healthcare system.

Regards,



Charles Tyson

Owner of *HealthSave Everton Park Pharmacy*