

Scott Street Pharmacy

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10 July 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.

As an independent community pharmacy, we offer a unique blend of services to our community. We offer specialised compounding, specialised sleep apnoea services and offer a range of products like compression stockings and incontinence care as well as a large range of specialised dressings.

Our staff are trained very well to serve patients in these areas of expertise and it is something one would not find in a warehouse or supermarket style pharmacy.

I believe many community pharmacies especially ones in the regional areas do an excellent job providing primary health and community care to their local patients. This is driven by pharmacist owners who has a passion for their community and its wellbeing.

If pharmacy ownership are deregulated, small community pharmacies will quickly be pushed out of business by big corporations who only has financial gain in mind. We know this from examples overseas that has detrimentally affected community pharmacy. (the name "community" says it all)

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. Equally drug manufacturers should not own pharmacies. The list goes on and on and unintended consequences would result.

Please consider our submission very seriously.

Regards,
Sonja Venzke
Community Pharmacist for the Scott Street Pharmacy Partnership