

Health, Community and Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

RE: Inquiry into establishing a pharmacy council and pharmacy ownership in Queensland

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a pharmacy owner concerned about the inquiry into pharmacy.

I am a sole operator employing 6 staff and have been working in my community for 15 years.

I support the government setting up a pharmacy council, to manage local pharmacy issues and bring us in line with the other states, but I'm really concerned about the potential deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws.

I believe that any deregulation of current laws of ownership threatens the existence of independent, community-based pharmacies in Queensland like my own. I believe the services that I deliver to my community would not be provided under a corporate model, which would lead to worse outcomes for patients in South Brisbane

We provide a first stop for patients with health issues and work tirelessly to ensure their needs are met.

With regards to questions concerning the scope of pharmacists, I would support any extension of scope which allows me to provide the services my community needs. Delivering flu vaccinations through pharmacies is an excellent example of how pharmacists can improve the accessibility of important health services.

Pharmacies play an essential role in the health system as primary health providers. While providing PBS medicines is the core of our business, I am also proud to provide quality advice, assistance, triage and care to members of my community. Ensuring the health of my customers is part of my role as a health professional and I am concerned that a move to deregulate community pharmacy would undermine the model which serves communities like my own so well.

Regards,

Jim McDowell
B. Pharm, MAppFin.
Gladstone Rd Pharmacy, Highgate Hill