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To whom it may concern:

I strongly believe in the regulations currently in place in Queensland and Australian for pharmacy practise ownership.

I believe that having pharmacist only ownership creates better safer practises. Not only do we have to uphold our ethical codes as stipulated by the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild but we are accountable. Currently we the owners are accountability for every aspect of our prescription business and this can be enforced via the professional standards expected of the pharmacist as an owner.

In America they pay fines at a corporate level but there is no individual accountability, in Australia if the owning pharmacist does not act in the best interest of the customer there can be significant ramifications for them maintaining their professional registration & therefore there business. All Australian Consumers can rely on this.

Look at supermarkets in Australia, they are dominated by 2 players there is a real risk to the number of owners if corporate ownership is allowed. This will potentially reduce the power the government has over the pharmacy sector. This will also reduce competition maybe not in the short term but in the long term. Have we not witnessed this in the UK and America where deregulation has occurred?

Pharmacies currently exist in many small communities where there are no other health care services or limited services. The current model of ownership and location rules supports and provides pharmacy services in many regional locations

Continuity of care is another important point especially in regional locations. Having a local pharmacist owner like myself living in the regional community allows the population to have someone they know and trust, be available at a practise 51.5 hrs a week and on call if required. Owners such as I, tend to stay and grow with the community this creates a strong bond between the pharmacy and the community. On many occasions patients are left with fragmented care and on many occasion we are the last line to direct them. The value of this would be hard to understand unless you are part of a regional community.

I fully support the formation of a pharmacy council to police the current act. The current model is safe and effective for our patients. It maintains professional autonomy and accountability of each individual owner.

**The current model is in the patient's best interest. Corporate ownership is not.**

Adam Fraser

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