

Thrive Pharmacy & Diabetes Management Annandale
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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 recently found out about this inquiry, and I'm writing to express my concerns as the owner of Thrive Pharmacy and Diabetes Management in Annandale.

I understand that the government is looking to set up a pharmacy council. While I support this and the work the council will perform, I am concerned about what changes to the laws around pharmacy ownership would mean for my pharmacy and my patients.

As a smaller community pharmacy near Townsville, we pride ourselves on the professional services we deliver to each member of our community. We are the local pharmacy for most of our patients and have built a relationship with them over many years. They trust us for our great health advice, one-on-one service and our knowledgeable pharmacists who are always available to address any concerns.

As you can see by our name, we also offer specialised Diabetes Management Services to the community. We regularly present to the community (free of charge) information days and evenings on prevention and management of diabetes. Working closely with Diabetes Australia Queensland, we organise fundraising events, educational events and are extremely pro-active within our community. I believe these services would not continue under corporate ownership since they don't always make a profit. This would significantly impact the healthcare for diabetics in Annandale – taking away valuable services and help from them.

Additionally, I believe pharmacies and pharmacists are an extremely underutilised commodity. As a result, I support the scope of services for pharmacists being reviewed and extended. I need to be able to provide more services to my community, as I really am the most accessible health professional in the Annandale, Townsville region. We can get people out of GPs and hospitals for simple services we should be able to offer our customers. We have the ability to do more, so give us the opportunity to do it. We welcome the chance to grow our professional practice and enhance health outcomes in Annandale.

People underestimate the value of pharmacies in a community. We are freely accessible and always ready to help the community in any way we can. We struggle to represent the true value of pharmacy and hope that changes to ownership laws do not go forward in Queensland as this would truly be the end of my pharmacy. I ask you to consider Queensland pharmacists and pharmacy patients carefully when making your decision.

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Regards,

Dianne Graham

Owner of Thrive Pharmacy and Diabetes Management, Annandale