

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**

I am writing to submit my views on issues within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

As a person who is supported by my local community pharmacy, I am concerned about the possibility of a big business takeover of community pharmacies in Queensland.

Pharmacists contribute positively to their local communities. I believe that any deregulation of the laws around the ownership of these pharmacies could cause these pharmacies to be bought out, or forced to shut their doors.

The current system where the pharmacy owner has health outcomes as their business priority backed by their professional ethics and priorities is working and should not be changed. Big businesses, if they were allowed to own pharmacies, would have a focus on shareholders and bottom line profit instead of patient outcomes.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is too important a piece of public health policy to place in the hands of corporations. If pharmacy ownership laws were changed many unintended consequences would result.

Communities rely on the health services provided by community pharmacies. I strongly recommend that community pharmacies continue to be able to support their communities.

I request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and do not support deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Amanda McIntosh