

09/07/2018

To The Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hansen,

Re: The deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland.

This submission is in response to the committee's consideration of the deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland.

In general terms, laws and regulations exist to protect the consumer and for the interests of the public in general. Any deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland may be in the interests of pharmaceutical companies, supermarket chains and big multinationals but fails to protect the needs of the patients, who desire a more personalised service, as provided by their current local pharmacies.

Existing laws have served the population well for many years. Community pharmacies support the local population's health needs and provide an essential primary health service to our society. Local community pharmacies are a vital part of our health system. The relationship between patients and their community pharmacy is the main reason pharmacists consistently rank as one of the most trusted and highly regarded professions in Australia.

Deregulating pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland would lead to a catastrophic big business takeover of community pharmacies in our state. Due to the longterm trust in the pharmacists patient relationship, the general public does not want supermarkets, pharmaceutical companies and other big corporates owning pharmacies. Deregulation may lead to the breakdown of the very personal relationship between the patient and their local pharmacies, with the resultant detriment to their healthcare.

The current ownership structure has worked well for consumers for many years and has extensive community support. Any change to the current ownership structure could do irreversible damage to our health system. Many rushed changes have unintended consequences and may lead to more harm than good.

Regards,

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