

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

Dear Sir,

I am the Co-Owner at TerryWhite Chemmart Arana Hills and am writing to you about the Inquiry which could result in ownership deregulation.

I am a registered pharmacist and have been practicing for 16 years. I work closely with my business partner Rodney Garozzo, given he is also a pharmacist and knows everything there is to know about pharmacy and medicine. It would be an entirely different environment if either of us was not a qualified pharmacist. For example, the International Federation of Pharmacy (IFP) Congress in 2016 heard many difficulties of Argentinian pharmacists working with non-pharmacist owners, where their lack of understanding of professional ethics disadvantaged the business and patients.

I am speaking with patients every day. Patients trust me as a health professional to give them the best advice for their condition or illness. Patients come to me knowing I am solely interested in their health and not motivated by profits. I believe this trust wouldn't be the same if they knew the pharmacist put profits above health care.

In saying this, I strongly support the establishment of a Pharmacy Council for Queensland. I believe we need more oversight in the industry, which the Council can provide. While the other states and territories have this oversight, we have a lack of transparency in Queensland which could be avoided. As a pharmacist, I would welcome the Council's specialist knowledge when overseeing the sector's standards, services and legislation.

With Queensland's population continuing to rise, in particular the elderly population, allowing pharmacies to practise more services could divert traffic away from doctors and hospitals. Screenings are a good example of an important but rather simple service that pharmacies could be offering patients. This could be revolutionary for patients and pharmacies – facilitating early diagnosis and intervention – when it is difficult or expensive to get a doctor's appointment.

I implore you to consider the points I have made in this letter. The potential deregulation could be detrimental to community pharmacies and their patients. Please do not underestimate the services we provide or the impact we have on the community.

Regards,



Michael Garrett

Head Pharmacist, TerryWhite Chemmart Arana Hills