

Committee Secretary  
HCDSDFVPC  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Via email: [pharmacy@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:pharmacy@parliament.qld.gov.au)

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Dear Mr Hansen

I am a pharmacy assistant of 36 years and am writing to voice my concerns regarding the inquiry into pharmacy ownership in Queensland .

I believe that the current situation with only Pharmacists being able to own pharmacies is the correct way. At our pharmacy we put our customers health and welfare before profits and if we feel that a product will not benefit our customer we will not sell it to them.

I for example only this week had a customer come into the pharmacy saying she had suddenly felt unwell, she actually works in the shopping centre where our pharmacy is located so we took her blood pressure which was high, then after talking to the pharmacist I walked her over to the Doctors surgery across the road for medical attention. This is not unusual and we regularly go the extra distance to take good care of our customers.


I have used the pharmacist's car on many occasions to take elderly customers home who were either too tired or unwell to walk home and regularly deliver medicines to customers if they are unwell and unable to come into the pharmacy

I think that if pharmacy is corporatized this level of care will cease to exist as the overriding consideration will be profit .

We want our customers in the community to trust us, which at the moment they do. We regularly hear that pharmacists are some of the most trusted professionals in the community. We have worked hard to achieve this level of trust and respect in the community and I can't see how it would continue if someone like Coles or Woolworths were able to own pharmacies. Their top sellers are cigarettes and coke – I can't see how this can be reconciled with health care, not to mention their income from pokie machines.

While I am not a pharmacist I have a lot of experience working in pharmacy, and I know how valuable a good pharmacy is to the local community. I think a counsel that keeps an eye on everything and makes sure only pharmacists are owning pharmacies is a great idea.

Regards



Tracy-ann Jarman