

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

11 July 2017

Paul Scholz
Albany Creek Day and Night Chemist
2/720 Albany Creek Road
Albany Creek QLD 4035

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the Proprietor Pharmacist at Albany Creek Day and Night Chemist. We are an independent pharmacy serving the community for over 20 years. We are open 7 days a week and are one of the first pharmacies to open and last to close in the Albany Creek area.

Although I love what I do, being a young owner is a very tough job. If deregulation were to happen, I would struggle even more. And while an offer of purchase from a large company will seem appealing, helping people is what I do and what I work for. This is why I studied for 8 years (undergraduate and postgraduate), why I worked very hard to own my own pharmacy and why I come to work every day. This passion is what motivates me, not money.

I am positive large corporations would not enter the market to 'help people'. It would be all about money to them. You may think the motivations don't affect a pharmacy or its patients, but it will – dramatically. We care about our patients – they're not just a dollar sign to us, they're a person in need who we can help.

We understand it is difficult and costly to book appointments with the local doctor, so we provide as much help as we can, usually free of charge. For free, we offer a consultation room, MedsChecks, Home Medication Reviews, medication packaging, patient medication profiles, blood pressure monitoring, a 'no wait' prescription service, complimentary items (medications, skin care, wound care) and the guarantee we will travel down every path to source any products for the patient. I can honestly say I don't think Coles or Woolworths would offer these services at all, let alone for free.

In saying this, I do support a Pharmacy Council for Queensland and allowing pharmacists to do more in pharmacies. I would welcome a local body to manage local pharmacy issues as well as the opportunity to provide the additional health services my community needs. Delivering flu vaccinations through pharmacies is just one example of how pharmacists can improve the accessibility of important health services and take traffic away from doctors and hospitals.

Pharmacies are extremely valuable for Australia's health care system. While providing PBS medicines is the core of our business, I am motivated to provide quality advice, assistance, triage and care to members of my community. Ensuring the health of my customers is my job as a health professional and I am concerned that deregulating the pharmacy sector could undercut community pharmacies which serves communities like my own so well.

Regards,

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