

Maree Matthews

11 July 2017

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
pharmacy@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland.

I have been informed of the abovementioned inquiry and am writing to put forward my views on matters within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

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

I believe I am in a strong position to offer my opinion as I am a 55-year-old mother who has been attending the same locally-owned community pharmacy my whole life for all of my family's health needs. This is the very same pharmacy that my own parents patronised and are still attending as patients to this day. Our pharmacist provides a wonderful service and goes above and beyond; following up with our GP regarding any discrepancies with medications prescribed, taking the time to offer advice on any medication changes, providing webster blister packs for my aging parents to make taking their tablets safe and simple, mobility aids, home services, after hours roster participation and the list goes on.

I am feeling distressed at the thought of what it would mean to lose the status quo and the implications of deregulation which would result in the closure of local pharmacies, especially in my rural and regional community. I have seen first-hand the important contribution that pharmacists make to local communities with health outcomes their priority. I don't believe other Australians like myself want to see supermarkets, pharmaceutical companies or other big corporates owning pharmacies whose focus is more towards shareholders and bottom-line profit. I hope your committee resoundingly rejects any changes which could have irreversible damage to this vital piece of health infrastructure.

Regards,

Maree Matthews