

From:
To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in
Queensland
Date: Thursday, 12 July 2018 1:19:27 PM

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hansen,

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

I would like to write a submission regarding the inquiry being undertaken. I would like to
write something substantial however I have a week old newborn who currently requires
most of my attention.

I am a partner in a local independent pharmacy in Paddington Qld. Our store is passionate
about our local community and work together with local doctors to provide true service to
our patients. We recently refurbished an office into a consulting room and now provide
influenza, whooping cough and Measles vaccinations. We deliver to our local community
three times a week (and frequently after work and weekends for urgent medications). In
fact a local who gets her medications from Chemist Warehouse regularly asks us to deliver
her eye drops and NDSS supplies as they don't offer this service. Despite it costing us
money to deliver to her, we do so because that's what a good pharmacy should do. In the
past we have ordered in a medication for someone in an urgent situation just as price
disclosure hit the product (PBS reforms / price decrease), and we were remunerated
approximately \$180 less than what we paid. Would a corporate owned pharmacy have
done the same for their patients?

Corporations do not have this underlying will to help people. If you look at overseas
markets where deregulation has occurred, pharmacists frequently feel pressured into up
selling, meet KPI's and have lost the patient focused model that we pride ourselves on in
Australia. Take the example of Boots Pharmacy in the UK who were under investigation
for pressuring their pharmacist to undertake unwarranted government funded medication
reviews

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[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/13/boots-staff-under-pressure-to-milk-
the-nhs-says-pharmacists-union](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/13/boots-staff-under-pressure-to-milk-the-nhs-says-pharmacists-union)

[Boots staff under pressure to milk the NHS for cash, says ...](#)

www.theguardian.com

Chemist's customers given unnecessary medicine reviews billed to the health service, claims professional body

We don't need multinational companies owning pharmacies in QLD. Due to the federal government locking in location rules, any changes to ownership laws would drastically increase the value of a PBS pharmacy. This would be terrible for young pharmacists who wish to purchase a pharmacy and push a patient focused pharmacy. By deregulating ownership young pharmacists would be locked out of ownership and the community would suffer. Once large corporations have monopolised the market, margins would skyrocket and the Australian public would be worse off. Currently allowing only 5 pharmacies to be owned by a pharmacist has greatly increased competition.

The elephant in the room is Ramsay Health; a multi billion dollar company. Currently private hospitals cream massive rebates on prosthetic's and devices, pushing the cost of insurance premiums up dramatically, impacting the lives of everyday Australians struggling to pay their bills.

<https://media.bupa.com.au/the-hidden-costs-of-medical-devices--and-why-you-end-up-paying-the-bill/>



The hidden costs of medical devices and why you end up ...

media.bupa.com.au

The ABC's 7:30 has revealed secret payments made by medical device companies to private hospitals which may contribute to increasing private health insurance premiums.

This corporate greed shouldn't be allowed into the community pharmacy sector. Currently our industry is one of small business and we shouldn't allow large multinational companies to monopolise and destroy what is currently a great profession and healthcare destination. Look what Woolworths has done to the local butcher, baker, sushi place, coffee hut etc. Should companies whose top selling products are cigarettes be allowed to own pharmacies? Would they show the altruism that is needed in healthcare, or would they just make patients into a commodity?

Once deregulation occurs, it cannot be undone. This decision shouldn't be made lightly

and would contradict the letters of support written for community pharmacy by both the LNP and Labor prior to the last election and would be a breach of the public's trust.

As show in 2014 when 1,210,471 Australians signed a petition supporting their local pharmacies, the status quo of pharmacist owned pharmacies works well and is the communities best interest. I urge you to set up a pharmacy council to ensure the current, and sufficient laws are being upheld.

Kind Regards,

Simon Sponza