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10.7.18

To whom this may concern,

It has been brought to our attention that the Parliamentary Inquiry into the potential establishment of a Pharmacy Council to oversee the community pharmacy sector has included a review of the current laws governing pharmacy ownership in its terms of reference.

This is very concerning to us, not only as a pharmacy owners but also as pharmacists. Everyday pharmacists act in the best interests of their patients. The treatment of every individual patient is unique and is not influenced by higher corporate entities or shareholders. This is represented every day in our pharmacy when patients seek free advice from our pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

The pharmacy sector in our Hinchinbrook Shire is well supplied with five pharmacies far outweighing the national and state person/pharmacy average. Patients have a great choice and accessibility to health care via the pharmacy avenue. We are well-placed to increase services to the community, widening our scope of practice. Deregulation of pharmacy ownership would see corporate entities and pharmaceutical companies enter the market with a focus on profit margins. This in turn will undoubtedly lead to a cut back on services to the community, with a shift away from the healthcare of patients and the community.

The following is a list of services provided by Sadleirs Pharmacy:

- Prescriptions – PBS and Non-PBS – Supply and counselling
- OTC Medicines
- Consultation room
- Vaccinations
- Wound Care
- Queensland Opioid Treatment Program
- Skin Care
- Cosmetics and Perfumes
- Free gift Wrapping
- Vitamins/Natural Medicines
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Diabetes care and National Diabetes Services Scheme access point
- Health Kiosk
- Inhaler Technique Checks
- Home Living Aids
- Hire Equipment
- MedsChecks/Diabetes MedsChecks
- Clinical Interventions
- Home Medicine Reviews
- Dose Administration Aids
- Staged Supply
- Meds Assist – Real time monitoring system for codeine medicines

- Project Stop – Real time monitoring system for pseudoephedrine medicines
- Free delivery
- Flood free location and work with SES in flood situations
- Extemporaneous dispensing
- Return of Unwanted Medicines disposal (RUM bin)
- Needle and Syringe Program
- Loyalty Program
- Med Advisor – Prescription reminder service and patient medication manager
- Work in conjunction with the NAPHL Aboriginal Health Workers
- National Disability Insurance Scheme provider
- Provide health promotion talks to community groups
- Service local nursing homes
- Canossa Nursing Home Medication Advisory Committee
- Credit accounts for customers
- After-hours service
- Donations to local community and sporting organisations
- Plus, many more

Many of these listed services are free and are provided solely for the benefit of our patients. They are not services provided for profit, they are to ensure that our patients have the best care and support available to them. Big corporations and pharmaceutical companies are not interested in this approach to health care. We, as the owners of our pharmacy, know our patients and are committed to their health and wellbeing.

While big companies continue to reduce staff numbers and cut costs, we employ thirteen members of our local community, maintaining high staff levels to provide optimal care to our community. Small business is the backbone of the nation's economy and we are proud to be a contributor to that.

We and our thirteen staff members and families thank you for your consideration of our submission and appreciate your time.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Menegon & Christopher Holland



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