

Tim Brusasco
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11/7/2018

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to express my absolute concern regarding the possible consequences of an inquiry into pharmacy ownership in Queensland. I have been the proprietor of smaller, community based pharmacies in Queensland for nearly 30 years. During this time I have sought to personally provide and encourage my staff to provide a level of care which would transcend normal service parameters that could well exist in a deregulated Pharmacy environment.

Apart from the obvious threat of pharmacy closures which would likely occur in a deregulated environment, I believe significant detriment to the community could occur with lack of Pharmacist intervention and subsequent medication misadventure which may become more frequent in a deregulated environment.

I believe there would be a significant diminution in the quality of service and care provided by a demotivated workforce that would arise from a corporate environment whereby business decisions and staffing numbers were purely based on economic rationalism.

In other words, if a particular user of pharmacy services did not fit in to a certain type of low care category, they may be adversely affected by the inability to access the type of pharmacy services they require. This can range from things such as a home delivery service to significant (and non financially yielding) time spent with a pharmacist to ensure they understand their medication and possible adverse events which could occur should they not have this attention. Further to this services such as staged medication, Webster (or similar) packing, medication monitoring and other complex patient requirements may fall by the wayside.

In essence Pharmacy may revert back to supply only with non existent professional services. In turn this leads to medication misadventure and increased pressure on our health system.

The need for consistent personal and professional pharmacy service has never been greater at a time when our population is rapidly ageing and medications and treatments are becoming more complex.

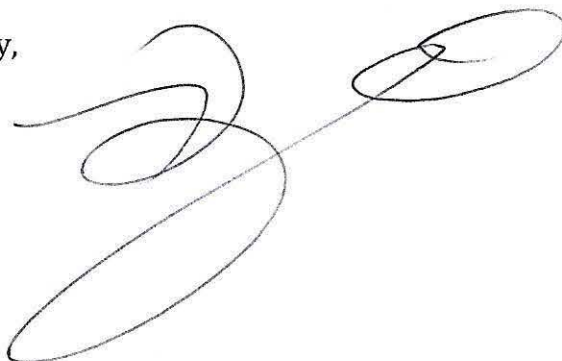
In fact, this is a time when pharmacists should become more involved in the health care chain, rather than merely being a supply clerk.

Pharmacy has become increasingly competitive, as it should, but there are also circumstances whereby economic rationalism is not the only answer.

Those organizations who seek to offer pharmacy services may also be the ones whose largest sellers are tobacco, alcohol and soft drinks. Surely this represents a conflicted situation.

To summarise, I believe a deregulated environment would lead to a situation where the increasing numbers of people on complex pharmaceutical medication and dose regimes may slip through the cracks. This could lead to medication misadventure which would place additional burden on our health system . A deregulated environment may suit a garden variety patient, but certainly would not provide the safety net that the current system has proudly striven to provide over many years.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Brusasco

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Brusasco', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name.