

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a concerned pharmacy owner and pharmacist. I have been a pharmacist for 24 years and have owned Manly West Pharmacy for 12 years. I am very proud of my community pharmacy and the values we practice.

We have four pharmacists working in the store (including myself), all of which are very knowledgeable and passionate about pharmacy. We offer more than just filling a prescription. We offer extra services such as the National Diabetes Services Scheme, Baby care & maternal health weekly clinic, Blood pressure and Diabetes monitoring and DNA testing. Not to mention our delivery service, SMS reminders, our instore filing system for patients' scripts and repeats, and that customers can call ahead so their medications are ready to be picked up instore.

I am concerned that allowing corporate ownership of pharmacies will threaten the existence of independent, community-based pharmacies in Queensland like my own. I am worried additional services like the ones we offer at Manly West Pharmacy will not continue with non-pharmacist owners, given they don't always turn a profit. This will result in poorer healthcare for patients, particularly those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular diseases in the Manly West community.

Removal of pharmacy programs supporting these sufferers will also increase traffic to GPs and hospital. While we could be providing more services and programs to the community to decrease the burden on other healthcare providers, deregulating the sector would send pharmacy patients straight to them for simple services and ailments.

On the other hand, I entirely support the establishment of a Pharmacy Council and the scope of practice for pharmacists being expanded. We are trained to provide more services, so the opportunity to offer them to my community is certainly welcomed. For instance, allowing me to provide vaccinations to people of all ages could again take traffic away from GPs.

I believe pharmacies play a vital role in the health system as primary health providers. I am proud of my pharmacy and of the quality advice, triage and care my team offers the Manly West community. Ensuring the health of my customers is why I am a pharmacy owner and I am concerned that allowing corporate ownership in community pharmacies would undermine the model which serves communities like my own so well.

Regards,

Chris Davis

The owner of Manly West Pharmacy

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