

Committee Secretary

HCDSDFVPC

Parliament House George Street

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July 13th 2018

Dear Mr Hansen

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

I have been made aware of the abovementioned inquiry, and I write to submit my views on issues within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

I have worked as a registered pharmacist in Queensland for 35 years.

I welcome this inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council.

Other Australian states have done this, to the betterment of the profession and healthcare outcomes for their populations.

Queensland pharmacists need an up-to-date, well considered set of guidelines that can be drafted, legislated, supported and enforced. Currently there are some ambiguities in the interpretation of the pharmacy and poisons laws here in Queensland.

Having owned pharmacies during over this time, I have great respect for the good intent with which pharmacy ownership legislation was written.

My pharmacy is a compounding pharmacy in a small medical centre in Ipswich. Of the eight people who work in or on our pharmacy, five are registered pharmacists. The three non-pharmacists on staff have, collectively, 80+ years of experience working in community pharmacy in our local area.

In the eleven years of our ownership here, we have provided deliveries of dose administration aids (Websterpaks) to both community and residential care patients. We are pharmacy service oriented. Over 80% of our business is dispensary sales and pharmacy services and the remaining 20% is largely made up of S2/S3 medicines, first aid and home healthcare aids.

We have a 'big box' discounting, retail-focussed pharmacy two blocks from us. Their ~ 80% retail component is visibly consistent of fragrance, cosmetic and self-selection nutritional supplements.

Our loyal and our new patients are voting with their feet (or wheelchairs!) and trusting us with their *pharmacy* needs.

The current model of pharmacy ownership has served Queenslanders well. They don't want pharmacies bought out, or forced out, by big business with a primary focus on the bottom line. They want the current system where the pharmacy owner has health outcomes as their business priority backed by their professional ethics and priorities.

It would appear though, that the limit on the number of pharmacies owned has been 'worked around' by certain 'creative' pharmacists and associates.

I believe an effective pharmacy council would help enforce the integrity of ownership rules.

Government legislation has been important in preventing potential positions of 'moral hazard' where individual or corporate priorities could override patients and health outcomes. For example, Queenslanders will not benefit if their *prescriber* has a pecuniary interest in the pharmacy that dispenses his prescriptions. Likewise, Queenslanders cannot have confidence in the business model of a pharmacy situated in a *supermarket* selling cigarettes and alcohol.

I applaud the inquiry for considering expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists and assistants.

The Grattan Institute statistics cited in the inquiry's Paper 2, highlight the large number of 'less complex' GP visits that represent an extravagance on the Medicare budget.

I believe Queenslanders have a right to expect more services from their pharmacy. We need supportive legislation to enable this. A pharmacy council will have an important and sizeable task to undertake and I look forward to giving it my full support.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Davies

B. Pharm MACP



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