

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000

13 July 2018

Review of current laws governing pharmacy ownership

Dear Mr Hansen

I respectfully urge you and your committee to ensure that the establishment of a Pharmacy Council for Australia does not unwittingly lead to a decline in the health care capacity of local pharmacists.

Communities across this vast country are served exceptionally well by owner-pharmacists, who are often the first point of call for basic health needs and advice. In many remote rural communities, where access to medical services is limited, the pharmacist's role is even more significant.

Deregulation of the pharmacy sector in other countries has caused irreversible damage to the health sector in general and local communities in particular, with profit margins replacing health care as the core priority of the business. In a similar manner, corporate ownership of pharmacies would almost certainly lead to a decline in health services here in our own country, as programs such as nursing home services, diabetes services, home delivery and screening services disappear.

The owner-registered pharmacist plays a vital role in our communities. She/he is known, trusted and respected. What advantage is to be gained by changing a system that has served Australians well for generations?

Yours sincerely

Anne Kelly

Loreto Sisters