

Scarness Beachside Pharmacy  
347 Charlton Esplanade,  
SCARNNESS QLD 4655

11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACY COUNCIL AND TRANSFER OF PHARMACY  
OWNERSHIP IN QUEENSLAND

Dear Mr Hansen,

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

As a patient/community group who is supported by our local community pharmacy, we are concerned about the possibility of a big business takeover of community pharmacies in Queensland.

We have seen the important contribution that pharmacists make to their local communities, and we believe that any deregulation of the laws around the ownership of these pharmacies could cause these pharmacies to be bought out, or simply forced to shut their doors. We want the current system where the pharmacy owner has health outcomes as their business priority backed by their professional ethics and priorities. Big business would have as a focus shareholders and bottom line profit.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is too important a piece of public health policy to place in the hands of corporates.

We understand that if pharmacy ownership laws were changed many unintended consequences would result.

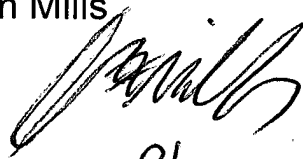
Communities rely on the health services provided by community pharmacies.

While we understand there are other matters before the inquiry, our main concern is ensuring that community pharmacies continue to be able to support their communities.

We request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and recommend against deregulation.

Kind regards,

Azam Mills



(Pharmacist)