

**From:**  
**To:** [Pharmacy](#)  
**Subject:** submission: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland  
**Date:** Friday, 13 July 2018 10:17:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Committee Secretary  
HCDSDFVPC  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

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 would like to submit my views within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

1. I am not against the formation of a pharmacy council to police the current Act.
2. I do not support the changing of the current ownership regulations in Queensland for the following reasons:
  - Supporting the current ownership regulations is supporting the safety of my patients – as ownership regulations as they currently stand allows professional autonomy and accountability by every individual owner for every interaction with our patients. This will be lost under a corporate ownership environment, where ROI/shareholder returns/bottom line profits drive every decision. This is not in the best interests of the patient. Evidence of this is already available by the example of the corporatisation of medical practices and radiology/pathology practices. This has not improved patient care and only resulted in costs blow outs in Federal Government budget estimates for these services. (Compare this to PBS expenditure where the Federal Government works in partnership with the Pharmacy Guild, who represents individual pharmacy owners, which is showing costs savings – above and beyond all Government estimates)
  - Pharmacies currently exist in many small communities where there are no other health services – the current model of ownership and location rules supports the current model which provides healthcare, employment and high cost/low return pharmacy services like nursing home services, diabetes services, home delivery, disease screening services and medication management services. Deregulation will result in the closure or cancellation of these vital services. There is also the intangible benefit of continuity of care having local pharmacist owners living and contributing in other ways in regional communities for years at a time.
  - There is a false belief that deregulation of ownership laws will result in more competition. I believe this is untrue because currently of the 1140 pharmacies in Queensland – they are mostly competing with each other individually. By allowing corporate ownership there would be a concentration of ownership, resulting in less competition. This is evident in the supermarket space, where there was no real competition due to the duopoly of Coles and Woolworths – until Aldi came into that market. The same takeover and reduction in competition will happen if allowed to enter the pharmacy market. Other markets where Coles and Woolies have entered (for

growth and profit) and taken over are petrol/fuel, pubs/gaming and liquor/alcohol. Has their entry into these markets truly benefited the consumer? I think not, and certainly not benefited the consumers health . In fact it incongruous that the supermarkets want to move into the health space without giving up the huge profits from the selling of tobacco and alcohol.

- In fact some unintended consequences and scenarios may result due to deregulation. Imagine if doctor and medical corporates can profit from the more medicines they can supply. Imagine if drug manufacturers or drug wholesalers or health funds can own pharmacies (just like in America – how expensive and inefficient is their healthcare system). Imagine if outlaw motor cycle gangs or criminal gangs got control of pharmacies.
3. The current ownership regulations are safe and have served our patients very well. The system currently works – it is not broken and does not need fixing. Don't do irreversible damage to this vital piece of healthcare infrastructure.

Sincerely,

**Edward Candotti**

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**LiveLife Pharmacy Group**

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