

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

**RE: Inquiry into establishing a pharmacy council and
pharmacy ownership in Queensland**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently heard about this inquiry, so I am writing to you to bring to light the consequences this could lead to.

I own *SuperPharmacyPlus* in Stafford. We are known for our convenience and care, given our extensive services we offer and long opening hours. We have a number of specialised staff working seven days a week to support the Stafford community with programs for baby and child health, diabetes, immunisations, continence and independent living equipment. We also offer medication packing (Dose Administration Aids), Home Medicines Reviews, and instore medicines reviews (MedsChecks). My customers value these services, many of which are free, as they are accessible and delivered by a qualified pharmacist.

I would love to be able to offer my customers more services. My pharmacists and I are capable of providing more at the pharmacy, so I support the scope of practice for pharmacists being reviewed. The programs and services we offer make a great difference to those in need in the Stafford community, so offering more immunisations, screenings or monitoring services could make even more of a difference.

However, I am strongly against changing the current ownership laws. I am worried large enterprises such as supermarket chains will enter the market and undercut valued community pharmacies like my own. Not only will this force small pharmacy owners to sell out, it will undoubtedly impact the healthcare provided by pharmacies. Then, when the large corporations have control of the market, I am concerned that they will raise the price of their medicines and products. And these free services they value so much could be eradicated or be made expensive. This would be devastating to Queensland's health system.

The level of interest in patients' health and wellbeing will also decrease under a corporate model. Pharmacists enter the profession with the passion for providing quality health care to those in need. Large corporations are not driven by health care. They are all about profits and this will be evident in a non-pharmacist owned pharmacy. Large corporations or supermarket chains do not share the same values as pharmacists. And this will be damaging (financially and health wise) to Queensland's health system and patients relying on pharmacies.

I do support a pharmacy council for Queensland to protect our industry from these sorts of issues. I believe we need a body separate from the government to oversee and regulate our practices and industry. We need Queensland in line with all the other states and territories already with a pharmacy council.

However, the concern lies with the ownership laws. Changing them could change Queensland's health and healthcare system dramatically. I ask you to consider my submission and my fellow pharmacists' when you are thinking of changing these laws.

Regards,

Julian Beumer

Owner of *SuperPharmacyPlus*, Stafford