From:
To: Pharmacy
Subject: Queensland Pharmacy Ownerhip
Date: Friday, 13 July 2018 10:56:47 AM

To whom it may concern

I am a pharmacist and I have a part share in 3 pharmacies.

I support the initiative to govern ownership in Queensland - certain Pharmacy groups are circumventing regulations and using complex structures to own more than 5 pharmacies and this is not right.

While this is a stain on our reputation, it is well demonstrated that Pharmacists owning Pharmacy is in the best interest of the public. Pharmacists must act in the best interest of the patient or face disciplinary action from APHRA.

If this enquiry decided to throw out the baby with the bath water and deregulate ownership of Pharmacy there will be a dramatic impact on the sector and in turn the public.

In countries where Pharmacy ownership is deregulated and is now in the hands of corporates, services that were once free to patients (deliveries, nursing home services etc) have either disappeared or are now a cost.

Supermarkets (who would be a major beneficiary of deregulation) have provided many examples of predatory pricing, (holding prices very low or below cost) in order to take market share. Once the competition is gone prices are under their control. Does anyone think we pay less for Petrol now with supermarkets in control of it?

I would not be able to compete with a Supermarket, and my Pharmacy along with the 48 staff I employ would be gone. Multiply this by the 5000 pharmacies around Australia and it will have a significant impact on employment. Pharmacy is currently a service industry (not the self serve model that is more cost effective from a corporate point of view).

I love the work I do, I value the role I play in our community and my staff are trained to the highest standard to deliver primary health solutions to 1000's of customers a week. Please consider what deregulation of ownership would mean for these customers and all those employees of Pharmacy.

Kind regards

Kennyth Blaine Woods BPharm MPS

TWCM Keperra

Sent from my iPhone