

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 write to submit my views on issues relating to the terms of this inquiry. I have been working at the same community pharmacy for 14 years and have built up the rapport and trust required to support my patients in their health journey. I fear for the patient groups who visit my community pharmacy and their health outcomes should deregulation of pharmacy ownership go ahead.

Pharmacy is a frontline healthcare service backed by small businesses, underpinned by the PBS and based on a strong foundation of ethics and legislation. I am completely opposed to the movement away from what has been a successful framework for many decades. Patients have the right to feel as though their best interest is at heart and it is simply not going to be the case if big corporations are able to purchase and open pharmacies. We must protect our patients from corporate giants who are likely to use them to push morally hazardous agendas and only consider the profit a customer can bring.

At the pharmacy I have dedicated a large portion of my working life to, we are committed to providing high quality, tailored services to every single one of our patients. I hold great concern that the programs and services that have been developed for pharmacy by pharmacists will also fall by the wayside should supermarkets, pharmaceutical companies and other big corporations invest in pharmacy ownership. As these services take time, with often no profit being made, number crunching stakeholders will simply see these services as not profitable and health outcomes of Australians will suffer.

Communities rely on the health services provided by community pharmacies and I recommend against deregulation.

Regards,

Carmel Russell

Dispensary Technician for Albany Creek Day and Night Pharmacy

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