

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 am a young pharmacist who is extremely passionate about maintaining the high standard of advice, care and support that community pharmacy provides patients with every day. Deregulating pharmacy ownership would be disastrous to the health of all Australians and see the closure of many Queensland pharmacies, impacting not only the livelihood of healthcare providers like myself but patients who rely on our services.

The deregulation of pharmacy ownership poses serious moral concern when you consider the ulterior motives of those wanting to invest in the industry. The focus of pharmacy will most certainly shift from maintaining or improving patient wellbeing to a means of pushing agendas, turning patients into customers and destroying what we have spent decades developing and protecting. This concern is extremely real and as many would say, inevitable, if corporations and pharmaceutical companies can purchase pharmacies.

The future of pharmacy is bleak should the go ahead be granted to deregulate ownership. Health promotion, pharmacy programs, advice, referral services and triage will all come second to money making tactics. I request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and recommend against deregulation.

Regards,

Joel Watson

Pharmacist at Albany Creek Day and Night Chemist

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