

13 July 2018

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear M Hansen,

**RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in
Queensland**

We write to submit our views in regard to the above inquiry concerning issues within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

As residents of a small rural town and patients of a local pharmacy for well over 60 years we are extremely concerned about the proposal to deregulate pharmacy ownership, thereby allowing supermarkets and other business corporations owning pharmacies.

Pharmacists have been the cornerstone of communities for around 100 years. They provide a service which would not be available if pharmacy ownership was deregulated.

- The pharmacist is usually the first point of contact for most people seeking advice or treatment for minor injuries and sickness.
- A local pharmacist has the confidentiality of their patients and also provides many other services such as organising and maintaining medicine packs for patients as well as monitoring prescriptions and medication usage. Visiting aged care facilities and the infirmed.
- Pharmacists have always been the most accessible of all health professionals; appointments are not required nor are patients kept waiting hours on end. They are available out of hours, and can provide advice and services which alleviates the pressure on local GPs and emergency departments of hospitals.

**WOULD A SUPERMARKET OR OTHER BUSINESS CORPORATION PROVIDE THIS LEVEL OF
SERVICE FOR PATIENTS?**

Other issues for consideration are:


- Pharmacy patients' privacy, record keeping and health outcomes.
- The rapport which exists between a pharmacist and their patients.
- The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the consequences of supermarkets or other business corporations maintaining the program.
- The protection of current pharmacists who have studied for many years at great expense and trained under established pharmacists before becoming qualified and registered.
- The welfare of current staff and their livelihoods.
- The moral hazards when corporate priorities override patents and health outcomes.
- The increased healthcare burden on GP's and the hospital system.
- The deregulation of many other industries and the detrimental effect it has had on communities, families and individual lives.

We strongly request the inquiry give in-depth consideration to the importance of pharmacies and the role they play within communities and recommend against deregulation.

Regards,



(Ross Valinoti)



(Lorraine Valinoti)