

As you will be aware the rules governing pharmacy ownership mandate that only a qualified and Registered Pharmacist can own a Pharmacy. I'm very honoured to be the only Capital Chemist Owner in Queensland - we are one of the most Professional organisations I've ever had the privilege of being involved with. Circumstances dictated in 2002 I returned to Ireland however Australia was always in my soul.

I completed a Doctorate in Business Administration within the Mall Culture that pervades the UK. There is room for this, however, within this lucky country we must remember that approx 12,000 Queenslanders are employed in the Pharmacy Sector.

Pharmacies are THE most frequent visited and accessible Primary Healthcare Destination in the State with more than 70 million individual visits per annum.

The Pharmacist, being accessible, offers FREE advice without appointment.

There is no other Healthcare provider who undertakes these " for the love of the job" moments as the pay is not commensurate with expectations AND results saving the Government MILLIONS in triage et al...

These are very graphic facts.

Having travelled around the world it is fact not opinion that deregulation will threaten jobs of these essential HC providers - it has happened before in Ireland and UK plus other local neighbours. This consequence will especially undermine the viability of rural and remote communities Primary HC needs.

It is deemed unnecessary to go further down the path of the supermarket scenario which will defragment the industry just like previous experiences in Ireland and England.

Within my Local Pharmacy I am extremely proud to offer FREE Diabetic services, FREE home delivery (often to detriment of family life) and many other screening/ health programs at little to zero cost.

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Time and again, I have been in a crisis suicide position and the overriding ability to remain calm and CARE/ TALK about that individuals issue/s have saved lives.FACT.

That makes me very, very proud. This is just the beginning.

Furthermore, I'm a proud member of the Clinical Council PHN for Sunshine Coast. It is a role that gives me Professional pleasure and excellent Clinical Governance. The wealth of experience within and beyond the industry has ensured I'm inextricably linked to Healthcare in Queensland. As a parent, I only wish the best for my children. All this in 3 years.

The patient is the entire epicentre of a Healthcare Journey.

On a personal level, with over 20 years experience I am content to put myself forward in relation to the establishment of a Pharmacy Council. There needs to be a consistent voice of Authority and Clarity in the Pharmacy Ownership and Deregulation discussion.

At this current juncture there is confusion and within this state there are Ownership deals that are not being legally/ ethically regulated. Is this the future? One would expect not...

In summation, thank for your time. It is perhaps apt that my mother has the final word - Your Health is Your Wealth. It is my personal mantra in life to be part of that where price is never a defining factor and where Community Chemist remains at the Epicentre of the Complete Healthcare Solution.

Feel free to discuss anytime.

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Yours sincerely, Owen

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