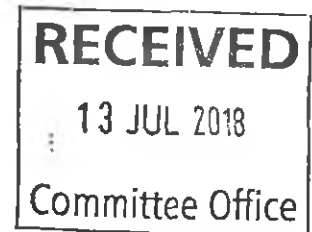


Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George St.
Brisbane. Qld. 4000



Dear Mr. Hansen

Re: Inquiry into the establishment of pharmacy council and transfer ownership in Queensland

I have been made aware of the above mentioned inquiry and would like to tell you my personal views on this subject. I see no winners if you go down this road and the greatest losers would be the public first and then the pharmacists who own their own business. I have never in all my years and I have quite a few up my sleeve, where when corporations take over businesses the everyday person is not greatly affected.

There are many services that the self owned pharmacist gives freely and with good faith and these would be the first things to go as corporations are only interested in profits for their shareholders, that is the bottom line for all of them.

They generally work hand in hand with the local GP and are a front line service in my book. There are many contributions that the pharmacist makes to their local community, firstly employing local people to work for them. They care deeply about their clients and are often used for advice, taking a burden off the medical profession. They perform many tasks outside their line of work in helping the elderly to ensure they are not abusing prescription drugs. Their main priority is their customers and should these businesses be taken over by big business or drug companies I sadly fear these necessary things would disappear.

Perhaps if you had taken the time to walk in their shoes for just a week you would not be so hasty in making this disastrous decision.

While I understand there are other matters before the inquiry, my main concern is ensuring that community pharmacies continue to be able to support their communities.

I ask that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and recommend against deregulation.

Thanking you,
Stephanie Carsley,