

From:
To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland
Date: Friday, 13 July 2018 3:32:54 PM

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 above mentioned inquiry, and I write to submit my views on issues within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

As a community pharmacist, I am deeply concerned by the possibility of changes to the ownership laws resulting in pharmacy ownership deregulation. Currently, only registered pharmacists can own a pharmacy and this has to be maintained in order to ensure that an ethical business model is retained that puts the patient's health as its ultimate priority.

Over 12000 Queenslanders are currently employed as pharmacists and pharmacy assistants and changes to the pharmacy ownership laws jeopardises every single one of these jobs. It can be easily seen from various other health systems around the world that have made the poor decision to de-regulate, the number of communities pharmacies that were forced into closure, the reduction in health services offered to the community and the increased burden that this has put on remaining health services such as hospitals and GPs. Our health system is already struggling to cope with the demand on hospitals and GPs, and increasing the demand on these would be catastrophic, not to mention the negative consequences that would be caused by the lack of supply and accessibility to medications in our community. We should be learning from these countries' mistakes, not making the same ones.

Pharmacists are currently one of the most respected and trusted professionals in our community and this has been helped by the fact that we are able to practice under our ethical code of conduct and our delivery of services to our patient is health focussed. The corporatisation of pharmacy that would follow deregulation would threaten the ethical delivery of these healthcare services and result in a spiral of moral hazards.

Currently community pharmacies are able to provide many beneficial health services to our community, including vaccination, free medicine checks, various health checks and medication packing services. Most of these services are free or at very little cost to the patient and all are very easy for patients to access. They also all have been showed to have extremely positive outcomes for community health. It would be very unfortunate for changes to pharmacy ownership to occur and these beneficial health services, that are producing real health outcomes be eliminated.

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 request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies and recommend against

deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Amy Ford (BPharm MPS)