

Form submission TYPE 3

I have recently been made aware of the above inquiry, and write to submit my views on this issue.

As a health professional myself, I am deeply concerned that community pharmacies could possibly be taken over by big corporations.

Community pharmacies are a vital part of the community and are often the first point of call for many people regarding minor ailments as well as general checkups such as blood pressure, height and weight and blood glucose. The reason behind this is that some people cannot access or afford to be going to the GP for checks nor can they afford to buy the equipment for these checks. It is often a place where patients feel 'safe', they have a good rapport with the pharmacist and the assistants and to some people this is very important especially in the elderly.

My concern if big corporates take over pharmacies are that there would be limited health professionals in this area - they would not have the knowledge or experience to deal with the questions many pharmacists and their assistants are asked and therefore would attend the local hospitals which would cause further burden on the health care system.

The prices for medications and dressings and everything else pharmacies provide would be increased due to corporate businesses thinking only of gaining profit. Patients are the one's who lose out here and could result in worsening conditions due to not being able to afford medications etc. Again putting more burden on the health care system due to illness.

Local pharmacies are part of the community and it would be yet another small business that would be destroyed due to corporate businesses. Jobs would be threatened, which then puts on a burden on the community itself.

A believe pharmacies play a very important role in the community and ask that the committee considers how major of a role they play and recommend against deregulation.

Regards