

From:
To: [Pharmacy](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Pharmacy Council and pharmacy ownership in Qld
Date: Friday, 13 July 2018 3:44:07 PM

Dr 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 abovementioned inquiry and as a practising community pharmacist I wish to contribute my views.

I am fully supportive of the establishment of a pharmacy council and I believe this will bring Queensland pharmacy in line with the rest of the states. I am concerned that the terms of reference for the inquiry include a review of the current laws regarding pharmacy ownership.

I believe that reviewing the current laws for the sake of clarifying any ambiguity would be beneficial. I am also of the opinion that there needs to be strict enforcement of the laws. Reviewing the laws for the purpose of making them more lax, or to legitimise those businesses that may not conform cannot and must not be a consideration.

I firmly believe that ownership of pharmacies should remain with a qualified and registered pharmacist. The health of our patients must be given the highest priority. Without concrete evidence that changing the ownership laws to allow others to own pharmacies, would improve patient health outcomes, no decision to change the laws should be supported. I believe that there is evidence to show that, from overseas experience, similar changes have resulted in worse health outcomes, reduced services to the patients most at need, and job losses.

Allowing large companies to own pharmacies does nothing but to commoditise what we do. There are many services such as blood pressure testing , blood sugar testing and home deliveries that I do for free because it is in the best interest of my patients. I believe shareholder driven companies would not provide these services because it will not add to their bottom line, or shareholder value. Please consider if a faceless corporate entity would offer this level of service.

We are also active in the community and send pharmacists to talk to community groups, and sponsor local sports clubs.

The current model of ownership is in the best interests of the Australian people, and works very well. I am concerned about the unintended consequences that a change in ownership would cause in damaging the accessibility to pharmacists, especially in Rural and Regional Queensland and the flow on consequences to the network of 1140

Queensland Pharmacies and the communities that they support.

Please don't support Big Business, profits and shareholder returns over the health of the people you are elected to represent. Any changes would be irreversible and forever change the landscape of Queensland to the detriment of your local community.

Regards

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