

From:
To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland
Date: Friday, 13 July 2018 3:46:28 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.

Deregulation of pharmacy ownership would be catastrophic to our health system.

Currently with registered pharmacists owning pharmacies, our community is offered a level of protection by the pharmacist having the professional and ethical responsibility of the patient's health as their focus. Big corporates are not under this same scrutiny and do not have the regulations of the Pharmacy Board and the Professional bodies to ensure prioritisation of patient's optimum health and ethical conduct. Pharmacists are currently one of the most well respected and trusted professionals in our community and I want to see the current system where the pharmacy owner, that is the pharmacist, has health outcomes as their business priority backed by their professional knowledge and ethical standards.

Our local community pharmacies are often the first port of call for patients seeking healthcare advice and support and by being easily accessible to the public, they assist in reducing the burden on other healthcare facilities. The current model facilitates this and changes would likely result in closure of many of these stores, a severe reduction in services offered and threatening the jobs of the approximately 12000 Queensland Pharmacists and Pharmacy Assistants that are currently employed.

It can be easily learnt from many overseas health care models that pharmacy de-regulation has caused the widespread closure of many community pharmacies limiting healthcare access to patients whilst increasing the burden on already over strained hospitals and GP clinics.

Our community pharmacies play a very important role in our healthcare system and the services they provide, often for free, dramatically contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of our community. The current ownership models ensures very accessible and timely provision of medicine and healthcare. Should deregulation be considered, the outcomes would be disastrous.

Although I understand that there are other matters before the inquiry, I am very much concerned about ensuring community pharmacies being able to continue to support their communities.

I request that the committee seriously considers the important role of pharmacies in our community and the role that they play in our overall health system, and recommend against deregulation.

Your sincerely
Clinton Ford