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Health, Community and Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into establishing a pharmacy council and pharmacy ownership in Queensland

I wish to provide a submission to this Inquiry in my capacity as National Head of Business Advisory and National Director, Pharmacy Services at RSM Australia.

I have worked closely with the Australian Community Pharmacy industry for over 20 years, providing business and tax advisory services for a wide range of pharmacy clients, with a special focus on individuals buying a pharmacy, partnership and succession planning and structures, finance and valuations. During that time, I also held the position for 10 years a director of the Australian College of Pharmacy.

I have seen first-hand how a Pharmacy Council has protected the safety of consumers in New South Wales and support the establishment of a Pharmacy Council in Queensland, to bring it in line with all other Australian states and territories and ensure the best possible health outcomes for all Australians.

Further, from a business perspective, having dealt with many of the Councils and Boards across Australia, I can attest to the difference it makes in dealing with government offices and officers who fully understand the business and practice of pharmacy.

Historically, the regulatory function of Queensland pharmacy business ownership was provided to Queensland Health in 2010 as an interim measure only, and a permanent solution has never been put in place. Given the benefit of time, I believe that Queensland now has the opportunity to choose the best structure for a Pharmacy Council based on successes in other states.

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Based on successes in other states, and to meet the requirements locally, some functions of a Queensland Pharmacy Council may include

- To administer the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 (Qld) and in particular to review and approve the ownership of and acquisition of interests in all pharmacy businesses
- To review and administer all registrations of pharmacy businesses
- To issue and maintain standards of pharmacy business operation and ensure that services provided by all Queensland community pharmacies are of the highest possible standards
- Keep a public register of all community pharmacies in Queensland. I note that not all pharmacy owners are members of the employer body, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and hence there must exist a gap as to whether a complete list is being held somewhere.
- To co-operate and assist other government departments where necessary in maintaining high standards in health practice across the state where pharmacists provide or could provide a primary role.

I believe that an independent, transparent Pharmacy Council will support the safety of all Queenslanders by ensuring that medicines are accessible to all Queenslanders and are dispensed in a pharmacy accountable to a pharmacist owner who derives the full beneficial and financial outcomes of the business.

I am available to present at public hearings regarding this Inquiry to further expand on any of the points included in this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saccasan'.

PETER SACCASAN, FCA FACP(hc)
National Head, Business Advisory
National Director, Pharmacy Services