

July 12 2018

Dear Mr Hansen

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACY COUNCIL & TRANSFER OF PHARMACY OWNERSHIP IN QUEENSLAND.

I have been made aware of this inquiry & wish to submit my views on this issue within the terms of reference of this inquiry.

As a long term patient who is supported by my local community pharmacy I am very concerned about the possibility of a big business take over of community pharmacies in Queensland.

I've seen the important contributions that pharmacists make to their local communities, & believe that any deregulation of the laws around the ownerships of these pharmacies could cause these pharmacies to be bought out, or simply forced to close their doors.

I want the current system where the

pharmacy owner has health outcomes as their business priority backed by their professional ethics & priorities. Big business would only focus on their shareholders & bottom line profit.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is too important a piece of public health policy to place in the hands of corporates.

I understand that if pharmacy ownership laws were changed many unintended consequences could result.

Communities rely on the health services provided by their local pharmacist

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 local community.

I request that the committee consider the important role of pharmacies & recommend against deregulation.

Regards
Linda Kohli