

11th July 2018

Committee Secretary
HCDSDFVPC
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
pharmacy@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Review of the current laws governing Pharmacy ownership

We have today been made aware of the parliamentary review into the pharmacy industry and that there is potential for deregulation.

We strongly object to any such move that might threaten the survival of community pharmacy and open entry to corporates, pharmaceutical companies, supermarkets etc. The premise that deregulation, and ultimately self-regulation, of industry is 'better than the existing model' is absolutely incorrect. The unregulated supermarket dominance in food, fuel, alcohol, office supplies, etc and subsequent destruction of communities, small business and employment over decades should be sufficient evidence to halt any thought of a deregulated pharmacy industry. Unbridled deregulation has proven to create more problems than it purports to solve.

Small regional towns and communities, with very little medical services remaining, now rely heavily on the local pharmacist for advice and ease of access. The corporate model of 'efficiency' virtually guarantees less staff, less care, less flexibility of service and definitely less pharmaceutical knowledge ... all this on the premise that customers might receive reduced product prices.

It is absolutely certain that deregulation will result in the closure of local pharmacies and in our community this will result in the loss of many important jobs. Apart from medication dispensing, many pharmacy health services will disappear as will nursing home services, diabetes services, home delivery, and numerous health programs and screening services. Pharmacists practicing in community pharmacies are the focal point for basic health care needs and often operate as the first point of call by providing triage, advice, referral and support services to patients.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is a vitally important a piece of public health policy and should never be assigned for corporate service delivery. The legacy of decades of service delivery from community pharmacy is proven to work ... alternatively, corporates cannot guarantee anything because tomorrow there will be a new CEO, a new Manager, a Corporate takeover ... and a guarantee that the service delivery will be less caring and less accountable.

There are some things which are better when NOT corporatized! Communities rely on the health services provided by community pharmacies.

Yours sincerely,



Henry & Jennifer SLANEY