

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: Fwd: Inquiry into the Establishment of a Pharmacy Council and Pharmacy Ownership in Queenslnd
Date: Monday, 16 July 2018 2:54:23 PM

Previously sent to incorrect address, Sorry.

Begin forwarded message:

From: John & Angela Ward [REDACTED]
Date: 16 July 2018 at 7:16:30 am AEST
To: Pharmacy <pharmacy@parliament.gov.au>
Subject: **Inquiry into the Establishment of a Pharmacy Council and Pharmacy Ownership in Queenslnd**

To Members of Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

I have recently retired from the finance industry after 40 years of employment by one of the major banks.

In that time I was heavily involved in finance of pharmacists purchasing and establishing new community pharmacies in rural, provincial and metropolitan areas and so well aware of pharmacy ownership laws which protected these health delivery businesses.

I have witnessed first hand after living in each of the abovementioned communities the value of a pharmacist to the resident communities. Not only as a health provider but a responsible, usually well known and active contributor away from just the professional service offered.

It is imperative I believe at this time of review that members of your government and industry committee be reminded or even educated into the history of pharmacy ownership rules and the first pharmacy agreement. At that time the government was actually assisted by pharmacists with funding to buyout pharmacies located in places that were not viable and able to sustain the pressures that were to be brought to insure the long term provision of pharmaceutical services to communities throughout our country.

Pharmacists have since then taken considerable financial risk in establishing and maintaining their delivery points throughout the state. The financial stimulation of community owned and operated pharmacy is huge for the local community providing

professional delivery facilities, with local employment and capital generation for property owners and trades people locally on an ongoing basis. It must be recognised how valuable this effort is and I maintain far more than contributed by the medical fraternity who experience far less in overheads to the obvious presence of community pharmacist.

Pharmacy has always supported the medical fraternity with provision of pharmaceutical products as required carrying the burden of high stock levels and cost as well as knowledge and checking facility of medications and

dosages proposed by the script writers, proving to be very valuable to the community and government in the provision of health services. Their contribution is often understated and politically jealously hidden by Medical Associations who have and hold governments to ransom at times for their own benefit.

The truth is pharmacists are extremely valuable to the government and community in providing safe , efficient and reliable medicinal care.

The community pharmacist is at times the only medical advice point available to a community.

I am aware first hand recently of a lady coming back to a pharmacist thanking her for saving her life for recommending immediate medical care and hospitalisation which did just that.

Also a close friend who was revelling in use of a rather large” national” chain of retail pharmacy group found himself in a dangerous position which was averted by referral to a local pharmacy owner who went out of his way to provide what averted that danger for this friend. Something he wasn’t able to get from from his “warehouse” operation.

These are only small examples of where locally owned community pharmacies benefit we public far better than large retailers.

The cooperative nature of community pharmacy in provision of health services on behalf of government cannot be understated or undervalued.

We need to appreciate the wisdom and reason for establishing pharmacy ownership rules and realise the true value of an educated professional deeply concerned with the health of their clients providing an efficient service for the government and us as compared to the little shop assistant employed by supermarket style retailers.

Really from experience my assessment is that existing pharmacy ownership rules need to be strengthened to ensure real health benefits are secured for our community and ensured government assistance is properly controlled.

Yours sincerely,

John Ward

Retired Bank Manager

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Sent from my iPad