

I write in reference to the inquiry into the ownership of Pharmacies in Queensland. I whole –heartedly reject any move to allow supermarket companies, drug companies And other big corporate to own and run Pharmacies.

Pharmacists are often the most accessible health **professionals** in a community- **providing much needed after consultation support.** You can't just walk back into the doctor's surgery and say can I just see you for a second to clarify something but a pharmacist would take the time to see you.

When you go to these people you need to know that they will give you the best health advice they can And they are not being driven by the background economics of big business.

They and General practice doctors are about the last bastion of professional ethics left in communities. The Banking sector shows what happens when things are deregulated.

The PBS scheme is funded by the public's money and I don't think that large supermarkets should be allowed to 'run' pharmacies that allow them access to the money from this scheme. I don't think doctors should be allowed to own Pharmacies either as it opens the temptation to over prescribe or favour brands etc that would allow profiteering.

Every 'Joe Blow' I'm sure would want the person looking after their health to be independent and unbiased By the economic bottom line of some multi-national company.

Keep pharmacies in the hands of PHARMACISTS.

Yours faithfully,

Kathryn Shaw.