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To: [Pharmacy](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACY COUNCIL AND PHARMACY OWNERSHIP IN QUEENSLAND
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Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)

Dear Committee,

This Inquiry is an opportunity to further strengthen the role and future of community pharmacy by enhancing its regulatory framework in relation to ownership, as well as allowing pharmacies to play an expanded role in delivering vital primary health care services that will improve health outcomes and standards of health care in Queensland and importantly, save tax payer dollars into the future.

As an employee working community pharmacy I value the vital role of community pharmacy within our state and nation's healthcare system. I have seen first hand the important difference that pharmacies can make to an individual's health and their quality of life. It is essential that the pharmacy ownership restrictions are in place to ensure the best health outcomes for everyday Australians.

1. Are pharmacy ownership restrictions imposed by the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 (Qld) (Act) necessary to protect consumers and deliver accessible and affordable medicines and services? Why or why not?

Pharmacist ownership of pharmacies ensures that there is an extra layer of protection for the public, with a qualified and registered health professional putting their career and registration on the line as the owner of the business and in its oversight. A corporatized or deregulated model which would allow any individual or entity to own community pharmacies would not provide this layer of protection, and opens the door to the possibility of unethical business practices and a prioritization of profits ahead of health care.

A deregulated model would result in a focus on products rather than on services. As has been the case in many overseas examples, corporatised models of pharmacy swiftly result in pharmacies becoming analogous to supermarkets, and the pharmacy being placed at the very rear of the premises with little or no visibility. This is not conducive to the delivery of positive health outcomes or the principle of quality use of medicines. Pharmacies in Australia have been transforming into true health destinations and many now have layouts and models whereby pharmacists are easily and readily accessible for expert advice, with the pharmacy resembling a health destination with a strong focus on preventative health and chronic disease management.

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