

Health, Community and Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

RE: Inquiry into establishing a pharmacy council and pharmacy ownership in Queensland

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a pharmacy owner concerned about the inquiry into pharmacy.

We are a community pharmacy who focus on tailoring healthcare to each individual patient. We offer a variety of services which aim at improving health outcomes for each patient and decreasing the future burden on the federal and state healthcare systems. Our pharmacists are involved in every patient interaction allowing patients to ask questions and the opportunity to be provided with expert advice. We provide a medication packaging service to improve patient compliance and adherence to their medications. We also provide a delivery service to ensure that every member of the community including those most disadvantaged have access to medications. Our store this year participated in the Guild Corporate vaccination program in addition to private influenza vaccinations which is an example of a successful pharmacy initiative which has decreased the impact on the healthcare system. We are also Queensland Opioid Treatment Program participating pharmacy working closely with local prescribers and Redcliffe Alcohol and Drugs. Our in-store Child Health nurse provides easily accessible post-natal support to young mothers. Patients are also referred to our pharmacy as the Sleep Management Group operates from within our store. These services can only successfully be provided by independent service based pharmacies by expert pharmacists whose main focus is improving patient health outcomes and management of medical conditions.

I support the government setting up a pharmacy council, to manage local pharmacy issues and bring us in line with the other states, but I'm really concerned about the potential deregulation of pharmacy ownership laws.

I believe that any deregulation of current laws of ownership threatens the existence of independent, community-based pharmacies in Queensland like my own. I believe the services that I deliver to my community would not be provided under a corporate model, which would lead to worse outcomes for patients in Clontarf.

We are located on the Redcliffe Peninsula which has a high incidence of newly diagnosed type II diabetes. Our store has a Diabetes Educator located within the pharmacy who provides patients' with private consultations assisting them in improving their future health outcomes. We run in-store diabetes campaigns promoting to the community the risk factors and potential early symptoms of diabetes. We are connected with a busy bulk billing medical centre who we liaise with closely for patient's medications. This allows us to easily contact the prescriber and in many cases has resulted in medication changes which has improved the management of patient's medical conditions. We aim to improve the health of our community through pharmacy awareness campaigns.

With regards to questions concerning the scope of pharmacists, I would support any extension of scope which allows me to provide the services my community needs. Delivering flu vaccinations through pharmacies is an excellent example of how pharmacists can improve the accessibility of important health services.

- Screening for lung disease

- Screening for diabetes
- Screening for STIs

Pharmacies play an essential role in the health system as primary health providers. While providing PBS medicines is the core of our business, I am also proud to provide quality advice, assistance, triage and care to members of my community. Ensuring the health of my customers is part of my role as a health professional and I am concerned that a move to deregulate community pharmacy would undermine the model which serves communities like my own so well.

Regards,

John Tawadrous

BPharm (Hons)

Pharmacy Owner/ PharmaSave Clontarf Bridge