

Pharmacy

From: Steven Probert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 July 2018 1:23 PM
To: Pharmacy
Subject: Pharmacy Enquiry

Categories: Form E

Dear Mr Hansen,

Re: Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland.

We have been made aware of the above mentioned enquiry and we write to submit our issues within the terms of reference of this inquiry:

I would specifically like to comment on the current pharmacy ownership model.

The current ownership structure for pharmacy has allowed pharmaceuticals to become easily accessible for all Australians. If ownership was to become open then big business would inevitably become involved to the detriment of all Australians.

Big business, in particular Coles and Woolworths has not led to cheaper groceries. Australia has some of the dearest groceries in the world. Coles and Woolworths now dominate petrol retailing in Australia. This has not led to cheaper petrol and they are frequently up to 20cents per litre more expensive than Freedom. Coles and Woolworths dominate the liquor market and the selection choice has decreased and the price increased.

Big business has failed Australia in many ways. The current Royal Commission into the banks shows how badly big business can behave with limited competition. There is a call for a royal commission into the bad behaviour of the big energy companies in Australia. Australia has almost the dearest energy in the world at the moment and "deregulation" was supposed to lead to a fall in energy prices. The opposite has occurred. The big law firms have only made legal work more expensive, not cheaper.

I personally believe the best way forward for Australia in the medical sector is to limit ownership of Doctors surgeries to Doctors and to limit ownership of pharmacies to pharmacists.

Large corporates do not increase the efficiency of any sector. Large corporates do not act responsibly to the patient or customer. Large corporations lack humanity.

Thankyou for reading

regards

Steven Probert
Chief Executive Officer



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