



**Media Release**  
Issued: 1 June 2018

## Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

**Chair: Aaron Harper MP**  
Parliament House Brisbane

### **Parliamentary inquiry considering wider public health roles for Queensland pharmacies**

Rules governing who can own pharmacies and the health services pharmacists can provide in Queensland are under review by a parliamentary inquiry.

The inquiry by the Queensland Parliament's Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee will also look at whether government checks on transfers of ownership of pharmacies involving discount chemist chains and other chemist business models have met requirements.

"The state's 1,100 pharmacies play a crucial front-line role in primary health care through the dispensing of more than \$1.5 billion in prescriptions annually, as well as other over-the-counter medicines," said committee chair and Member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper MP.

"Their business environment has undergone significant shifts over the past decade in response to increased competition and changed operating conditions."

"We are keen to hear from interested stakeholders, including consumers, pharmacists and other health professionals about options to improve accessibility and affordability of medicines and services whilst ensuring the safety of consumers is protected."

The committee has released an issues paper for the inquiry and is taking written submissions until **Friday 13 July 2018**.

Information about the inquiry and the committee's inquiry process is available from the inquiry website, [here](#) or by calling 07 3553 6626 or 1800 504 022.

The committee is required to report to the Legislative Assembly, by 30 September 2018.

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Aaron Harper MP on (07) 4766 3100

**For further information:** please phone the Committee secretariat on (07) 3553 6626

Email: [health@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@parliament.qld.gov.au) or visit the [committee's website](#)

#### **Committee Members**

Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa

Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra

Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar

Martin Hunt MP, Member for Nicklin

Barry O'Rourke MP, Member for Rockhampton

Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton

## Terms of Reference

On 3 May 2018, the Legislative Assembly referred an inquiry with the following terms of reference:

That the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly, by 30 September 2018, on:

- a) the establishment of a pharmacy council, and
- b) all transfers of pharmacy ownership in Queensland over the past two years to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

That, in undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider:

- a) the effectiveness of the current systems and processes in Queensland to regulate pharmacy business ownership in Queensland and protect Queensland consumers;
- b) the possible role and scope of responsibility of a pharmacy council, including any powers of enforcement and/or ability to impose penalties; pharmacists' and pharmacy assistants' roles and scope of practice; and interactions with other agencies or individuals involved in regulating pharmacy businesses and practice;
- c) models of regulation of pharmacy business ownership in other jurisdictions;
- d) a cost-benefit analysis of establishing a pharmacy council;
- e) any changes to legislation that would be required to establish a pharmacy council, including, but not limited to, changes to the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 (Qld)*, the *Health Act 1937(Qld)* and subordinate legislation, namely the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 and the Health Regulation 1996; and
- f) all transfers of pharmacy ownership in Queensland over the past two years.

## The committee

The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Committee responsible for:

- Health and Ambulance Services
- Communities, Women, Youth and Child Safety
- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, and
- Disability Services and Seniors.