




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2024

PHARMACY BUSINESS OWNERSHIP BILL

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023. I am really fortunate in the Redlands to have one of the most amazing members of the Pharmacy Guild, and I cannot see if she is in the gallery. Fiona Watson is absolutely topnotch; she is the best pharmacist someone could find, along with her mum, Evelyn, and her sister, Shona. Evelyn bought that business back in 1997. It is family owned and family operated. They are simply incredible. There is not a person in Redland Bay who does not know who Evelyn, Shona and Fiona are. They provide an absolutely tremendous service to our community. Never did I see that more than during COVID, as the member for Mount Ommaney mentioned, when we were all in a really heightened and stressed state. They were measured and calm, and they got the job done to make sure we protected Queenslanders. I thank them for all of the work they have done.

Fiona and I catch up regularly. She is always keeping me abreast of where pharmacists are at and what they are looking for, such as the work in getting the UTI prescriptions up and available for women. If you have ever had a urinary tract infection, you know that when you need that antibiotic you really need that antibiotic. We have done some great work with the Pharmacy Guild and I feel really privileged to have Fiona in my local patch. She keeps me up to date. There is also Ritchie, who is the pharmacist at our Thornlands community pharmacy. All of our pharmacists in the local area keep in contact.

I am extraordinarily proud of this piece of legislation, which will continue to support our local community pharmacists. They do a great job. I note, as many other members have contributed today, that Thursday is Thank Your Pharmacist Day. I will be making sure I do that. I think we should be thanking them more than on one day a year. I also note that last week they had their Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference. I know how dedicated they are to making sure they stay on top and at the forefront of everything to do with medicines and their profession.

To everybody in our community pharmacies I say thank you for all you do. The current act is over 20 years old and it is timely that we refresh it, update it and provide those mechanisms that will continue to protect our locally owned pharmacies in that community sense, because the service they provide to our communities is extraordinary. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.