



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Submission Number: 92
Name: Australasian College of Pharmacy
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2 November 2023

Patrick Mullane
Special Counsel
Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding
Email: submissions.HFI@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au;

Dear Mr Mullane,

Re: Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

The Australasian College of Pharmacy (The College) is a member-based professional organisation that has developed and delivered tailored educational, training and research programs to advance the pharmacy profession since 1976. The College offers a comprehensive range of activities that recognise and accommodate the needs of community pharmacies, and that support members' efforts to maintain innovative, high quality clinical and commercial practices.

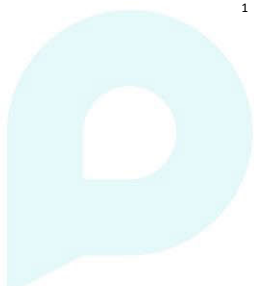
The College welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

There are over 2,000 community pharmacies in New South Wales, which are an essential and trusted part of the primary healthcare system. Each year there are 458 million patient visits (approximately 8.8 million per week) to community pharmacies making pharmacists the most visited healthcare professional in Australia.¹ Community pharmacists are highly qualified and skilled healthcare professionals who provide timely, convenient and affordable access to medicines and primary healthcare services.

Community pharmacies have an important role to play in providing better access to healthcare and reducing the burden on hospital emergency departments. By supporting community pharmacists to operate at their full scope of practice and treat everyday health conditions, there is the potential to create over 2,000 community health hubs across the state with availability after-hours, seven days a week.

Initiated by the New South Wales Government, the New South Wales Pharmacy Trial is currently underway and authorises appropriately trained pharmacists to provide community access to important medications and treatments usually only available with a

¹ PBS Date of Supply, Guild Digest, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>





prescription. Participating pharmacies can provide treatment for uncomplicated cystitis and resupply lower-risk oral contraceptive pill to eligible women. This trial, which will be rolled out in stages, mirrors the Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. The College is committed to supporting pharmacists with the high-quality education to enable them to practise to their full scope to support the healthcare needs of all Australian communities.

The College supports the proposed Terms of Reference which provide suitable direction to the Commission. A suggested improvement would be to include pharmacists in “opportunities for an expanded scope of practice for paramedics, *pharmacists*, community and allied health workers, nurses and/or midwives”. This would provide clarity in the Commission’s direction and align with the expanded role of pharmacists in the current NSW Pharmacy Trial.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this Inquiry. If you would like any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me via

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Yours sincerely,

Aaron D’Souza
President
Australasian College of Pharmacy
Pharmacy

Melanie Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian College of

