

Interim Report of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation (the King Review).

### Location Rules

Together with my business partners we have endeavoured to provide the best possible pharmacy service to our community whilst embracing new technologies and services to our community members. We have invested significant sums of money in our business and currently employ approx. 46 people. Our pharmacy was a finalist in Pharmacy of the Year in 2014.

We were distressed to be notified of an application for a third pharmacy to be given permission to open in Maryborough in February 2017. At our expense we provided evidence that indicated the location of the proposed third pharmacy did not meet location rule criteria on two accounts – distance from existing pharmacies and number of businesses in the shopping centre. The Australian Community Pharmacy authority rejected the application on this evidence. The applicant then asked for and was granted permission by the Minister for Health for him to consider his request to use his discretionary powers to allow a third pharmacy. We were given approx. 12 days to respond. At considerable expense we contracted a health consultant to put together a submission to argue our case against a third pharmacy in Maryborough.

My question is why do location rules exist, if a pharmacist can then apply to the Minister for Health to use his discretionary powers to overrule the location rules. When we have taken this up with leaders in the pharmacy profession – the comment has been something along the lines “Welcome to my world”

Under separate submission, I have included copies of letters from Department of Health re Ministerial Discretion and from two of our GPs who support the status quo of pharmacies in Maryborough.

We are pharmacists – not a lawyers– we want to provide excellent pharmaceutical service to our community – not be distracted from this important role which is exactly what has happened of the last 6 months

Bronwen Haywood

Partner Pharmacist

Priceline Pharmacy

Maryborough Victoria