1. In October 2018, the Queensland Parliament Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee tabled its Report Number 12: *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland*.
2. The Report found that there is no public interest case for establishing a separate state authority, such as a pharmacy council, in Queensland to assume the regulatory functions of ensuring compliance with the pharmacy ownership restrictions and pharmacy premises regulation. This finding is consistent with the Queensland Productivity Commission’s cost-benefit analysis findings that the Queensland community will be unambiguously worse off with the transfer of functions from Queensland Health. However, the Committee did recommend the establishment of a Queensland Pharmacy Advisory Council to support Queensland Health in its administration of the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001* (PBO Act) and the fulfilment of its regulatory responsibilities to monitor and enforce compliance with the PBO Act.
3. The government response accepts all recommendations from the report, either in full or in principle. The ‘in principle’ acceptance is in recognition of the fact, in responding to the recommendations, that there would be significant consultation with experts, other jurisdictions, and industry and other stakeholders that may affect how the response is ultimately implemented.
4. Key responses include:

* a reduction in the minimum patient age requirement for pharmacist-administered vaccinations to 16 years of age
* consideration of options for new models of care in relation to low-risk emergency and repeat prescriptions
* consideration of options for pharmacist administration of low-risk vaccinations (including travel vaccinations)
* a review of education and training requirements for community and hospital pharmacy assistants
* the establishment of a Queensland pharmacy advisory council, with an interim pharmacy roundtable being established for the short term, prior to a council being established
* transformation of systems and processes to administer the PBO Act
* amendments to the PBO Act to enable Queensland Health to more effectively regulate pharmacy ownership in Queensland and to support the Committee’s recommendations. This would include the introduction of a licensing and registration requirement with associated fees to cover the cost of the Council and offset the cost of increased regulation of the pharmacy industry.
* implementation of a compliance reporting framework to improve transparency and maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession.

1. Cabinet endorsed the Government response to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee’s inquiry, to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*

* [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 12, October 2018 –](Attachments/Report.pdf) *[Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland](Attachments/Report.pdf)*
* [Queensland Government response to the Report](Attachments/Response.PDF)