



Our **Mission** is to prevent child sexual assault in our society.
Our **Vision** is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

15/08/16

RE: PHARMACY REMUNERATION AND REGULATION REVIEW

To whom it may concern,

One in five Australian children are sexually harmed each year. Bravehearts' key purpose is to educate, empower and protect Australian kids from sexual assault, and the network of community pharmacies play a vital role in this goal.

Community pharmacies, and the pharmacists that work in these locations, play a huge role in the delivery of health services. For many Australians – especially in rural and regional areas – they are the first point of contact for health issues and advice. Pharmacists and their staff play an important role in recognising signs of abuse and providing support and referrals to those in need. Importantly, pharmacies are the most accessible health service. The current rules and regulations that govern the location of where community pharmacies are located have worked well and provide a broad access for people in genuine need of these services.

I wholeheartedly believe that the right advice at the right time, can not only change a life, sometimes it can save a life. The current network and structure of community pharmacy is well placed to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Supermarket pharmacies would simply not be able to provide the level of privacy, comfort and customer care that is seen at a community pharmacy. It is the welcoming yet confidential feel of a community pharmacy and pharmacists that works to not only recognise, but importantly, assist people in times of crisis. I would be devastated to see this proven and effective model changed in Australia.

In addition, many people who have been subjected to sexual assault are now on medications, some of them are on numerous medications. Community pharmacists go above and beyond in not only dispensing the medication, but providing advice and intervention where required to ensure the health outcomes of all patients, but particularly those on multiple medications, are recognised.

Community pharmacies provide fair, equitable, and accessible healthcare for all Australians. This is not a 'one size fits all' approach and I believe the current structure and network of community pharmacies is well suited to meet the diverse healthcare needs of all Australians.

Kind Regards,

Hetty Johnston AM
Founder & Chair