

New Owner Pharmacists

I know of many young/new pharmacists who wish to own their own pharmacies, but cannot afford the prohibitive goodwill and prices charged for many current community pharmacies.

These are well educated young people who deserve to have a go. They will support community pharmacy for many years to come if they have a vested interest as they are at the start of their careers and are young and keen.

The long relocation rules should be relaxed from 10km to 5km or even 7km in rural areas. Many rural towns have had growth and there have only been one or two pharmacies for many years. Transport is often an issue in these towns and the old people who cannot drive would benefit from being able to walk to a shop or get a lift to a pharmacy – but not 10kms! It is all very well to deliver to these people but they gain much more from interaction in the shop with other staff and customers.

The relocation rules could be looked at in the towns but some towns already are oversubscribed so this would have to be monitored. The rules should allow a pharmacist wishing to expand to move out of a restrictive shopping centre if needed.

A fee could be paid to the department of health to show bona fide interest in developing a new pharmacy. That way the department of health will benefit.

Yours sincerely

Young/New Pharmacists wishing to become owners