

Executive Officer
Pharmacy Board of Australia
pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

13 October 2010

Dear Mr Brizzi

**Re: Guidelines Consultation:
Responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the guidelines for responsibility of pharmacists when practising as proprietors.

Overall the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) considers the guidelines are practical, succinct and clear in outlining the responsibility that a registered pharmacist incurs when owning or holding a proprietary interest in a pharmacy business.

There are two comments the APC would make.

The first is in the first paragraph under *Guideline*. The APC suggests removal of the words *prima facie*. When applied in the law it usually means that there is sufficient evidence to justify further investigation or judicial proceedings, or when used in scholarly argument, of data that looks significant but requires further investigation. The APC believes that the first sentence is unequivocal if it simply reads ‘*The policy of the Board is that a pharmacist who owns a pharmacy is practicing pharmacy.*’

The final comment is related to the second dot point that states:

- Ensuring that the pharmacy is resourced suitably and that staff members are trained sufficiently to sell goods and provide services

The dot point may be less open to unintended interpretation should it be expanded to include terminology such as “Ensuring that the pharmacy is resourced suitably to enable any and all professional standards and guidelines to be met”.

The APC congratulates the PBA on providing clear guidelines on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely



John Low
President
Australian Pharmacy Council