



29<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Minister for Health  
GPO Box 4057  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Andrews,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the cap review for friendly society pharmacy ownership.

As most of our membership relates to services provided in hospitals, the number of pharmacies owned by a friendly society is not of direct concern to us. However, as an advocate for optimising the safe and quality use of medicines (QUM), SHPA does have concerns that the quality of the service, the delivery of QUM, and the perception of pharmacists by the public may be compromised by corporations who are driven by profit, have lost the spirit in which friendly societies are intended to operate, and no longer place patient care as their highest priority.

We would suggest that the current limit of six pharmacies per friendly society remains unless your review indicates that the economies of scale rendered by greater ownership also affords greater pharmacist to client ratios and thus improved patient counselling and care compared to smaller scale operations.

We thank you again for the invitation for input on this review. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Jones  
Chair, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Victorian Branch

**The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia**

SHPA Victorian Branch  
PO Box 1233L, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001  
Web site [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)