

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Regional chemists take fight to Sydney

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Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will continue to support the retention of community based pharmacies by attending a rally in Sydney on Tuesday.

Pharmacists from the region and across the state are expected to converge on Macquarie St to present a petition of over 500,000 signatures to Parliament House in protest to industry deregulation.

Mr Draper will be among the gathering of pharmacists who aim to highlight how strongly their communities feel deregulation would fundamentally change the way pharmacy operates especially in country communities.

“While the Federal Government have indicated they will allow the State to retain the existing legislation they have also stressed that should NSW chose to do so, they will be financially penalised for not removing restraints in trade,” he said.

“The industry fears that under deregulation pharmacy would move away from its current focus on professional healthcare toward a corporate retail model pushing product turnover and profit,” he said.

Mr Draper said he was very much aware of the importance of pharmacies in the provision of health care especially in smaller communities where access to primary health care was already under pressure.

Mr Draper has addressed Parliament on the issue and has had representations from the Pharmacy Guild and local pharmacists such as Gunnedah’s Peter Dennis and Ian Howle in Tamworth.

“Community pharmacies are much more than a shop where people go to purchase medical supplies, they perform basic first aid, give support and guidance and are very much a part of the social fabric of smaller communities,” he said.

End Release

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