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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE

Sixty-Day Dispensing Policy Changes
[3 MINUTE STATEMENT]

Speaker, earlier this month, I, alongside Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston MP, met with local pharmacies in response to their concerns regarding the proposed **Sixty-Day Dispensing Policy** and the expected impacts that this would have on their businesses and the impact it would have on patients accessing their services.

Some pharmacies expect to see a massive impact on their revenue, as a direct result of these proposed changes. Under Labor's proposed policy, pharmacies would see **3.5 billion dollars** wiped from community pharmacies, directly impacting their own patients.

Other pharmacies conceded that they may be forced to close their doors completely, with the average pharmacy expected to experience a **44%** hit to their net profit. And smaller pharmacies will no longer be able to afford overheads to continue in business.

Pharmacies in small communities will simply be unsustainable and also close, leaving patients with zero access to pharmacy services.

Many may be forced to scale back their opening hours, particularly those offering after hours services. Sadly, those pharmacies often act as a triage service, so as a result, these patients will have no option but to go to the Emergency Department of Local Hospitals..

One of the worst parts of the entire discussion Speaker, was the fact that **Labor** isn't recognizing that pharmacies are small businesses too, who employ multiple staff. And under these changes, many will be made redundant and lose their employment.

I also have it on good authority by these pharmacies that they predict there will be a larger nationwide medicine shortage



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because numerous medicines that are listed for **60-day dispensing** are already out of stock and these policy changes will simply not help.

Speaker, **The Prime Minister** and his Government have a lot to answer for. If these discussions with my local pharmacies are anything to go by, or if they have proven anything at all, it's that these changes will only result in increased profits for large pharmaceutical suppliers, none of which are located in our country.

Many pharmacy businesses will close their doors, numerous hard-working members of our society will be out of jobs and all for cheaper and easier medicines. Speaker, it's simple. The government isn't paying for these changes - our community pharmacies are. And that Speaker is what needs to change ASAP.

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