

MI116400

Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 12 November 2003, enclosing a petition in relation to the Hazelbrook Village Store.

The following advice is provided in order to clarify the situation surrounding the granting of a General Poison Licence to these premises.

Schedule 2 poisons, Schedule 3 products containing Pseudoephedrine and Schedule 7 poisons are those that are ordinarily only available from a pharmacy. In recognition that there are fewer pharmacies in rural areas, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* provides a mechanism for a retailer to seek a licence to obtain and sell a limited amount of these poisons if their premises is situated more than 25 km by road from a pharmacy. In this particular circumstance, a pharmacy exists within 25km of the applicant's premises. As the legislative provision relating to the granting of this class of licence is non-discretionary, Queensland Health is unable to accede to the applicant's request.

It should be noted that a retailer does not require a licence to sell non-scheduled drugs and poisons such as Paracetamol in packs of 24 or less. Similarly, a retailer does not need a licence to sell poisons listed in schedule 5 or 6.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**(SIGNED)**

Wendy Edmond MP  
**Minister for Health and  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy**