



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

# Industry Update

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**PRESENTED BY: TRENT TWOMEY, National President**  
**SUZANNE GREENWOOD, Executive Director**



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SPECIAL GUEST

**Hon. Mark Butler, MP**  
**Shadow Minister for Health**





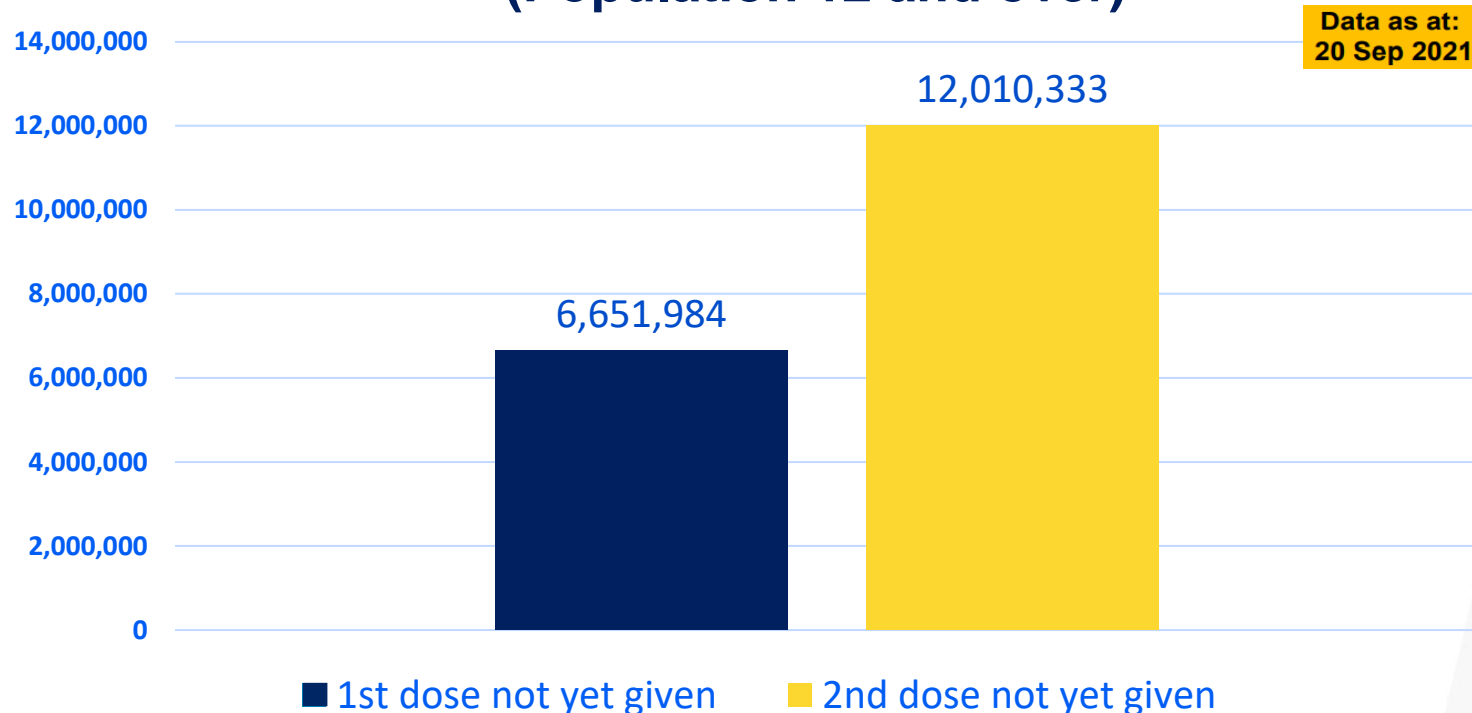
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# State of Play



# 18.6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses not yet given to patients

(Population 12 and over)

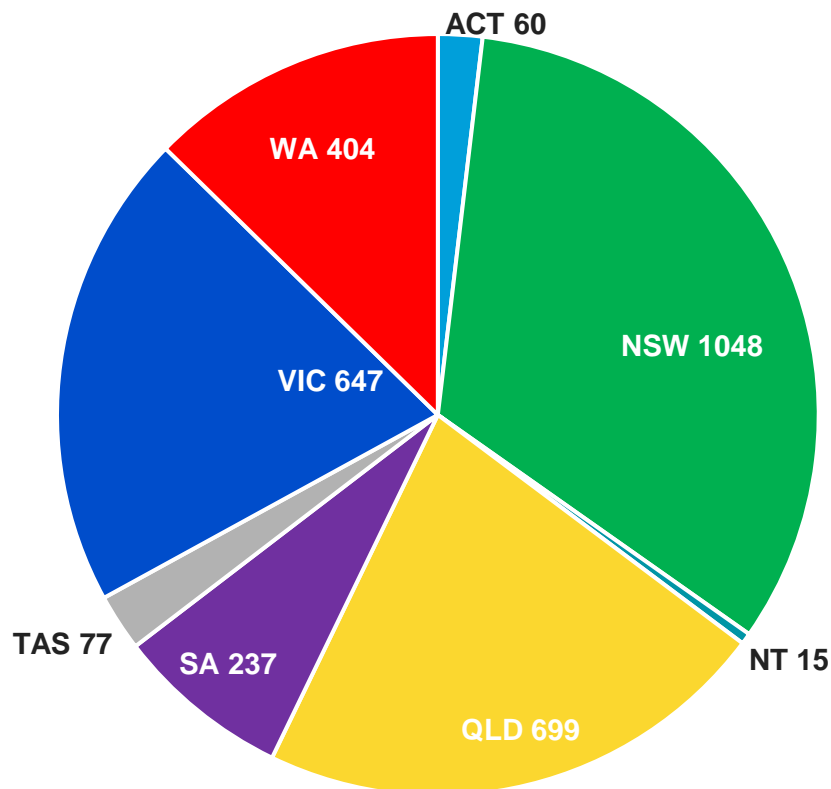


\* Data as at 20 September

# Pharmacy numbers - AstraZeneca



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As at 21 September

**606,300**

COVID-19 vaccines  
administered by  
community  
pharmacy reported  
in AIR



# Pharmacies coming on board with Moderna

- 1,824 pharmacies to have Moderna stock by the end of this week
- You can start vaccinating as soon as you receive stock
- 1,699 pharmacies will receive stock next week (Tranche 2)
- Set your availability in GuildCare or MedAdvisor booking portal



**Not too late to participate. Please refer to the 26 July email from Pharmacy Programs Administrator**



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# The Rollout



# COVID-19 Vaccination: Jurisdictional comparison

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
<b>Vaccines</b>	All ARTG listed	AZ PF Moderna	AZ PF Moderna	All ARTG listed	All ARTG listed	AZ Moderna	All ARTG listed	All ARTG listed
<b>Age</b>	≥10 and/or as TGA approved	AZ ≥18 PF ≥12 Mod ≥12	1 <sup>st</sup> AZ ≥60 2 <sup>nd</sup> AZ ≥18 PF ≥12 Mod ≥12	As TGA approved	As TGA approved	1 <sup>st</sup> AZ ≥60 2 <sup>nd</sup> AZ ≥18 Mod ≥12	As TGA approved	As TGA approved
<b>Who can administer</b>	Pharmacists Interns	Pharmacists Interns	Pharmacists	Pharmacists Interns Pharmacy students	Pharmacists Interns	Pharmacists	Pharmacists Interns Pharmacy students	Pharmacists Interns

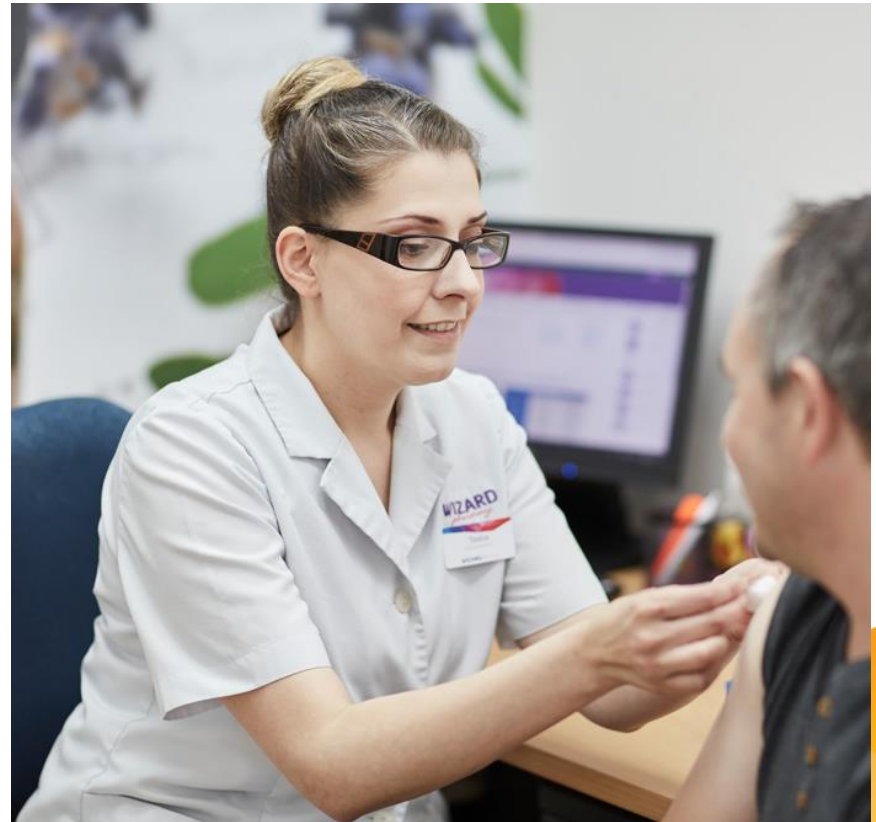
As of 21 September 2021

Other variations or specifications are related to location, booking systems, consent, records.



# Eligibility

- The Taskforce is aware some jurisdictions have opened up eligibility for mRNA vaccines at state vaccination clinics to people aged 60 years and over.
- If your state/territory has simplified eligibility and the regulations allow it, you can administer mRNA vaccinations to patients over 60 years.
- Where a claim is made by a pharmacy that has complied with jurisdictional regulations, it will be paid.





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# Latest Updates



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# Employee Vaccination Program:

## *Guild Corporate Health*

- New organisations have begun joining this program
- Master Builders Association now on board, along with MGA Independent Retailers, with more signing agreements this week.
- Will help to boost the COVID-19 vaccination rate safely and quickly
- Offering the employee freedom to be vaccinated when and where convenient to them
- Fast service – no delays in booking times



Get vaxed, Get back.

**To participate – (GuildCare subscribers) - set your availability now.**  
Select 'Guild Corporate Health COVID-19 Vaccination' service in your calendar for your pharmacy to appear in the client booking portal. Guild Corporate Health COVID-19 Vaccination appointments can be for either Astra Zeneca or Moderna vaccine.

**Not a GuildCare subscriber, register your interest here:**  
[https://pharmacyguild.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a62nf9IUnPI96v4](https://pharmacyguild.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a62nf9IUnPI96v4)



# After your Moderna Vaccination – Patient Handout

- New information sheet now available
- Department Health Patient Handout available in multiple languages

COVID-19 vaccination resources  
including above available at:  
[www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

## Information for after your Moderna (SPIKEVAX®) COVID-19 Vaccine

Today your community pharmacist has given you the **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**. Congratulations on taking this vital step in protecting yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19.

Two doses of **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine** are needed for maximum protection. If this is your first dose, the pharmacy staff can assist you with booking in for your second dose.

### What to expect after vaccination

You may experience some mild side effects following vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems.

#### Common side effects after the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- pain at the injection site
- tiredness and fatigue
- headache
- muscle or joint pain and stiffness
- fever and chills

#### Less common side effects after the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- redness or swelling at the injection site
- swelling or tenderness in the armpit
- nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
- enlarged lymph nodes

These side effects are usually mild, and start within a day after the vaccination and go away within two or three days. They can be managed by resting and using a pain medicine such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, or a cold compress if needed. Your pharmacist can assist with advice.

A small portion of people have had delayed injection site reactions such as pain, swelling or redness, occurring after 7 days of receiving the vaccine.

If after a few days of the vaccine you have unexpected symptoms or you have an expected side effect listed above that has not gone away, you should seek medical advice from your doctor or healthcare professional. Be sure to tell them that you have recently received the **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**.

Serious reactions such as allergic reactions are extremely rare and usually occur within 15 minutes of receiving your vaccine, which is why you are asked to wait in the pharmacy afterwards. If an allergic reaction occurs, your pharmacist is trained and equipped to deal with this. After you leave the pharmacy, call 000 if you think you are having an allergic reaction and experiencing severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are very rare side effects that may happen after receiving the **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**. Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart and pericarditis is inflammation of the heart lining. In the rare cases it has occurred, it has been within two weeks of having the vaccine. It occurs more commonly after the second dose of the vaccine and in younger men under 30 years of age. Most cases of myocarditis or pericarditis linked to **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine** have been mild and recovery has been quick.

**You should attend your nearest Emergency Department or call 000 if you have any of the following symptoms, particularly within 1 to 5 days and up to 14 days after vaccination:**

- chest pain, pressure or discomfort
- rapid, irregular or skipped heart beats
- fainting
- shortness of breath or pain with breathing



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# Be aware and prepare for expansion of vaccination services

Check all compulsory information is correctly entered and uploaded into AIR

**# 1**

Check the  
patient's age

**# 2**

Check the  
brand

**# 3**

Check the  
interval

**# 4**

Separate and  
differentiate  
vaccine  
services

**# 5**

Check patient  
contra-  
indications

## TGA new restrictions on Ivermectin

- Always assess each prescription on an individual basis and ensure there is sufficient information to support the supply of a medicine
- Can only be prescribed for indicated conditions of scabies treatment and some parasitic conditions

Changes made on 10 September

# Informed Consent/Confirming Identity

- Just a reminder of the importance of confirming identity of all people who come into your pharmacy to be vaccinated
- Government will be updating consent form

A person recently visited a pharmacy for a vaccination. Had a date of birth written on their palm as a reminder. This was noticed and further requests to confirm identity were not able to be satisfied. This led the pharmacist to decline to provide vaccination until such time as person could provide other ID.



# Childhood Immunisation Training

- Guild L&D has a Childhood Immunisation Module for all pharmacists.
- Free access for Guild members, non-members for \$75.



apc

ACCREDITED  
CPD

**G2018053-5**

This activity has been accredited for 1 hour of Group 1 CPD (or 1 CPD credit), suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan, which can be converted to 1 hour of Group 2 CPD (or 2 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities.

**To enrol in this course visit [guilded.guild.org.au](https://guilded.guild.org.au)**





# Closing the Gap (CTG) Prescriptions

- Grace period for dispensing/claiming CTG prescriptions for eligible patients not on CTG register **extended. Originally till 30 September, now extended to 31 January 2022**
- No scope for any further extensions to be granted



Guild working with Department, Services Australia and NACCHO to assess number people being added to the register to ensure grace period does not end early with eligible patients not registered





# Program rules:

## *Changes coming soon*

### **An off-site/out-reach program**

- Ensure CPs maintain a strong onsite vaccination presence, there will be a cap for offsite vaccinations
- Limitations on distance from pharmacy
- Will not be able to charge a fee for off-site COVID vaccinations
- *No Fault COVID Indemnity Scheme* will cover the cost of injuries above \$5,000 due to a proven adverse reaction to a COVID vaccination
- Participation if jurisdictional standards permit pharmacy immunisers to deliver services beyond the pharmacy store

### **Youth Vaccination Program**

- Provisions for off-site vaccinations, aimed to encourage COVID vaccinations for 12 to 18 years old in locations that attract young people



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# Nicotine: Vaping Products

# From 1 October 2021

- Consumers will require a prescription for all purchases of nicotine vaping products (NVPs) – purchased in Australia or overseas
- Illegal for retailers (vape stores & tobacconists) to sell NVPs
- Currently no TGA approved NVPs in the Register of Therapeutic Goods – these products are unapproved medicines – not been assessed by the TGA for safety, quality and efficacy



**e-cigarettes**

**Nicotine pods**

**Liquid nicotine**



# Access Pathways

With a valid prescription, there are two ways to legally access unapproved NVPs.

## At a pharmacy (in person or online)

- Medical practitioner will need to use either the Authorised Prescriber (AP) Scheme or Special Access Scheme (SAS) Category B to obtain approval to prescribe.
- Pharmacists will require evidence of an AP or SAS B approval prior to dispensing.

## Using the Personal Importation Scheme

- Consumers can continue to order and import NVPs from an overseas online retailer using the Personal Importation Scheme.

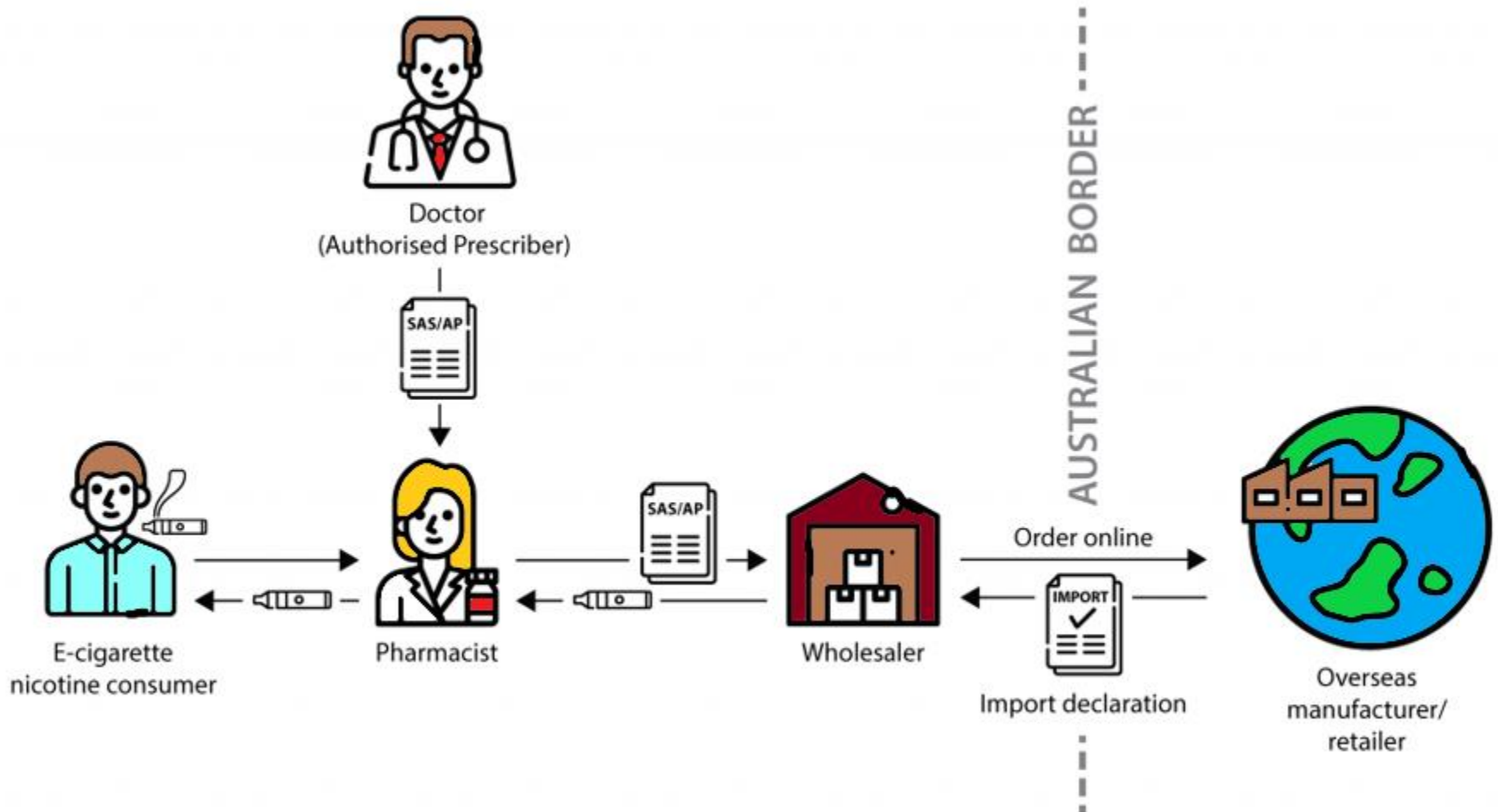
Pharmacies can stock NVP before receiving a script but recommend you determine consumer demand prior to ordering stock.

# Flow chart

## Dispensing a script for an NVP



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# Resources

- Standard for NVPs (TGO 110) Order 2021 – min. safety & quality requirements where supplied through a pharmacy - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00595>
- Guidance for Therapeutic Goods (Standard for Nicotine Vaping Products) (TGO 110) Order 2021 and related matters – <https://www.tga.gov.au/resource/nicotine-vaping-products-and-vaping-devices> (really useful!)
- Regulatory changes to importing, supplying & advertising NVPs - <https://www.tga.gov.au/resource/regulatory-changes-importing-supplying-and-advertising-nicotine-vaping-products>
- NVP website for pharmacists - <https://www.tga.gov.au/nicotine-vaping-products-information-pharmacists>
- NVP main website - <https://www.tga.gov.au/nicotine-vaping-products>



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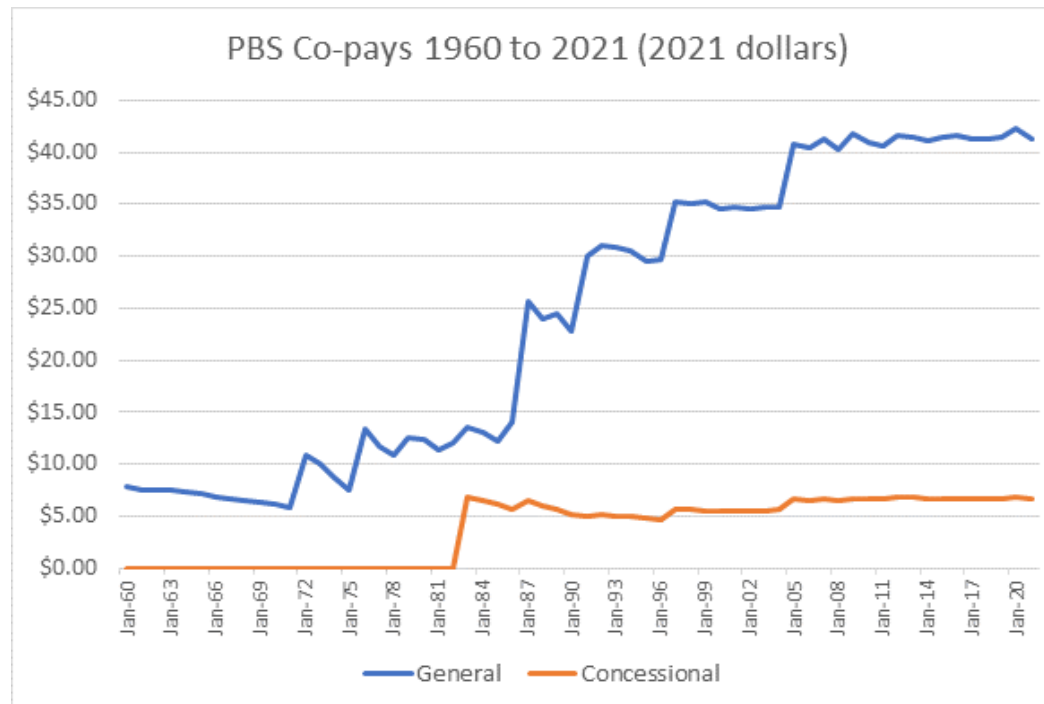
# Affordable Medicines Reform



# Affordable Medicines Reform

## *The Problem*

- Cost driving skipping prescriptions or doses
- 12.2% of people that self assessed with fair/poor health delayed or did not get a prescription due to cost



Concessional safety net threshold: \$316.80

General safety net threshold: \$1,497.20

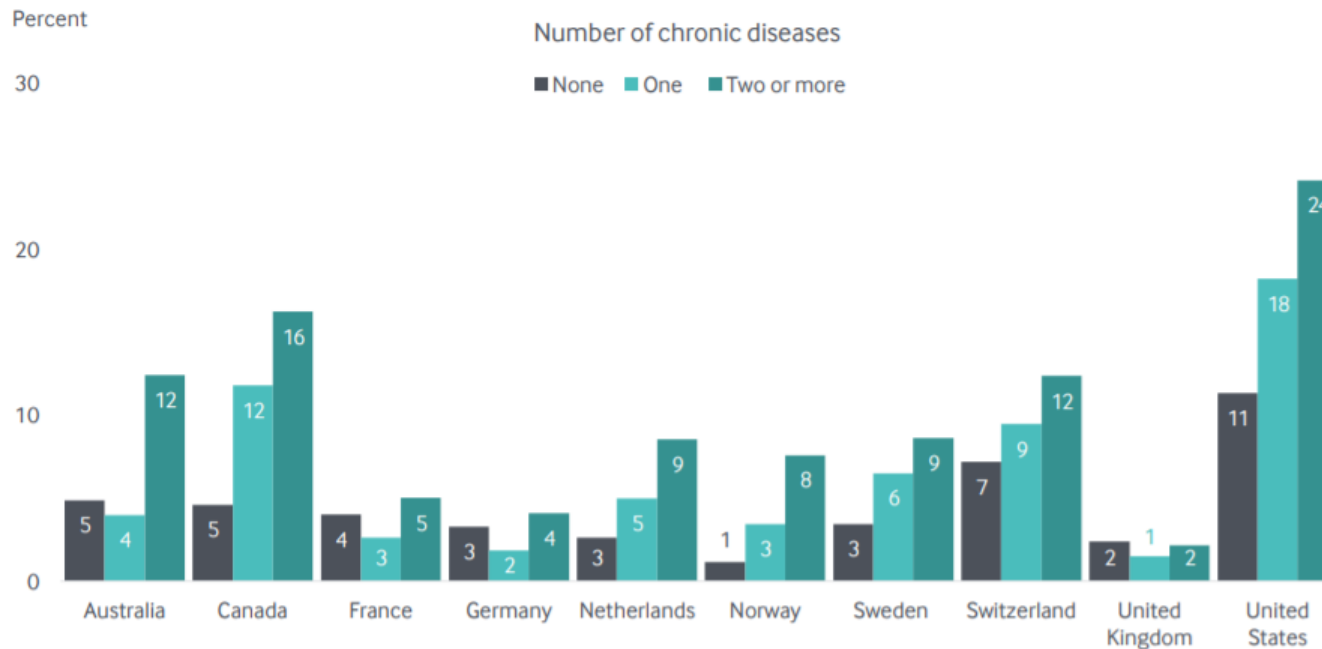




# The Problem

## *Cost driving skipping prescriptions or doses*

Exhibit 7. Adults Who Cited Cost as a Reason for Skipping Prescriptions or Doses, by Health Status, 2016



Data: 2016 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Adults in 11 Countries.

For people with **two or more chronic conditions**, Australia's affordability problem is worse than all except USA and Canada in this 2016 Commonwealth Fund study.



# Affordability of medicines is a real issue

## ABS Survey (2019-20)

- 12.2% of people that self assessed with fair/poor health delayed or did not get a prescription due to cost (compared to only 5.5% for people with better health)
- The proportion of people that delayed or did not get a prescription is largely consistent across geographic location

Source: Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings, 2019-20 financial year

## NAB Survey (2021)

- Almost 1 in 5 lower income earners of less than \$35,000 p.a. do not have a prescription filled because they could not afford it
- Affordability of medicines is also problematic for Australians in the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups

Source: NAB Pharmacy Survey 2021



# Affordable Medicines Reform

## *The Solution*

Introduce affordable medicines reforms starting with a reduction to the general patient co-pay to \$19

To help offset the Government costs, raise biosimilar medicine uptake, which will contribute to the fiscal sustainability of the PBS





# Benefits of AMR

## Patients

- Improve affordability
- Restore universality
- Improved medication adherence
- Reduces costs on health system from better medication adherence



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TOURISM  
& EVENTS  
*Queensland*





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# Recap



# Summary



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**Check AIR  
before  
vaccinating to  
confirm age,  
brand and  
interval**

**Ask all people  
who walk into  
your pharmacy if  
they are  
vaccinated/had  
their second dose**

**Confirm  
identity of  
patient  
before  
vaccinating**

**Remember  
you can  
transfer  
stock before  
ordering**

**Make sure  
your  
booking URL  
is in  
MyGuild**

**Set up your  
Guild  
Corporate  
Health booking  
portal to begin  
receiving  
bookings**

**Download  
new Moderna  
patient  
information  
sheet**

**Consumers will  
require a  
prescription  
from 1 October  
for all vaping  
products**

**Any questions [covid-19@guild.org.au](mailto:covid-19@guild.org.au)**

# More work to be done...



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- Keep providing feedback:  
[covid-19@guild.org.au](mailto:covid-19@guild.org.au)
- All vaccines  
All Australians  
All pharmacies
- State and territory  
regulations and standards







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## SPECIAL GUEST

**Adj. Prof. John Skerritt**  
**Therapeutic Goods Administration,**  
**Department of Health**

Wednesday, 6 October 2021 @ 8pm AEDST\*  
7pm AEST





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**Remember we are here  
for you!**

**Call 13 GUILD OR  
[covid-19@guild.org.au](mailto:covid-19@guild.org.au)**