



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Vital facts on community pharmacy

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There are **5,875** community pharmacies in Australia¹

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On average, every person visits a community pharmacy **18** times each year, in metropolitan, rural and remote locations².



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Community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and most accessible health destination, with over **462.6 million** individual patient visits annually and **2,135 pharmacies** open after-hours, including weekends³.

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In 2021, under the PBS and RPBS, community pharmacies dispensed almost 218.3 million Government subsidised (Above Co-Pay) prescriptions⁴.

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Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professions along with nurses and doctors. Public opinion surveys have shown that **84%** of adults trust the advice they receive from pharmacists⁵.

1. PBS Expenditure and Prescription Report

2. Pearson, D., De lure, R. (2021) NAB Pharmacy Survey 2021. NAB. <https://business.nab.com.au/nab-australian-pharmacy-survey-2021-48091/>

3. GuildLink data

4. Department of Health, Date of Supply Report, downloaded 9 May 2022, Accessed at <https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/statistics/dos-and-dop/dos-and-dop>

5. <https://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7244-roy-morgan-image-of-professions-may-2017-201706051543>



6



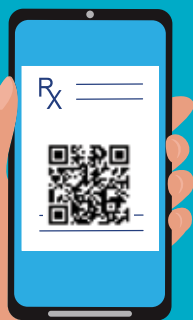
In capital cities, **97%** of people have access to at least one pharmacy within 2.5 km radius, while in the rest of Australia **66%** of people are within 2.5 km of a pharmacy¹⁰.

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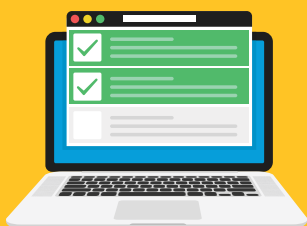
More than **94%** of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation⁷.

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There have been over **94 million** electronic prescriptions issued for patients (original and pharmacy repeat prescriptions)⁸.

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As of 30 June 2022, **99.9%** of PBS or RPBS prescriptions are now claimed electronically online⁹.

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As of 30 September 2022, there were **35,173** registered pharmacists in Australia. **63.8%** of pharmacists are women; and about **58%** are under 40 years of age¹¹.



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53% of patients say they use one pharmacy for everything or at least one category of product / service. **38%** of patients state they were driven by convenience of location⁶.



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6. CP2025_Integrated Market Research Report 2018 – Orima Research

7. Quality Care Pharmacy Program

8. Australian Digital Health Agency, www.digitalhealth.gov.au, December 2022

9. <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/annual-report-2021-22>; Page 68

10. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia 2020

11. Pharmacy Board of Australia Registrant Data; December 2022



12



Seven Community Pharmacy Agreements have been negotiated between the Government and the Guild, underpinning patient access to PBS medicines and professional services for over 30 years.

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In 2019–20, **712,017** of all hospitalisations were classified as potentially preventable. Of these, **218,086** potentially preventable public hospitalisations and **61,812** private hospitalisations were due to chronic conditions (excluding diabetes). Medicines adherence is an important role for community pharmacists.¹³



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Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points for the **1,471,761** Australians with diabetes registered with the NDSS¹⁵.

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Pharmacies support public health initiatives such as Opioid Replacement Therapy and needle and syringe programs and participating in the Return of Unwanted Medicines Program improving social, economic and health outcomes.

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Between July 2021 and June 2022 there were **15.8 million** dose administration aids provided by community pharmacies to patients to assist them to remain living at home¹⁴.



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Community Pharmacist-Led medication adherence interventions have improved adherence rates by **9.3%** and reduced health system costs by **\$1.9 billion**¹².

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12. Dovepress Journal – Patient Preference and Adherence: Pharmacist-led medication non-adherence intervention: reducing the economic burden placed on the Australian Health Care system
13. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2019-20; Table 8.2; <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/admitted-patients>
14. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/pharmacy-programs-data>
15. <https://www.ndss.com.au/about-the-ndss/diabetes-facts-and-figures/diabetes-data-snapshots/> (September 2022)