

# Breaking Down barriers To health Care access.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AUSTRALIA  
Formerly Family Planning Alliance Australia

Women are missing out on essential care and falling through the gaps ...

**13%** of Australians have waited up to 3 weeks to see a GP.

Source: National Voter Research, commissioned by PGA November 2024. 10-minute online survey. Sample size 3453.

**13%** of women miss the pill because they can't access a GP.

Source: Abukres SH, Hoti K, Hughes JD. Patient attitudes towards a new role for pharmacists: continued dispensing. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2014.

**2 in 5** Australian women will experience an unintended pregnancy.

**1 in 3** of these will result in an abortion.

Source: Mazza D, Assifi AR, Hussaini SV, et al. Expanding community pharmacists' scope of practice in relation to contraceptive counselling and referral: a protocol for a pragmatic, stepped-wedge, cluster randomised trial (ALLIANCE) BMJ Open 2023;13:e073154. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-073154

**Delayed care means worse outcomes for women**

**When care is hard to reach, women carry the burdern.**

**56%** of the cost of unintended pregnancy is carried by women.

Women are calling for faster, local care. Community pharmacy can deliver!

**13%** of Australians have waited up to 3 weeks for GP appointments.

Source: National Voter Research, commissioned by PGA November 2024. 10-minute online survey. Sample size 3453.

**1 in 5** people went to an ED due to GP wait times or availability

**Frontline health services are struggling. When care is hard to access, women suffer the consequences**

Source: Use of emergency departments for lower urgency care 2020-21 and 2021-22, AIHW, last updated May 2024.

**Health equity starts with access**

**Community pharmacy pilot programs show how rapid treatment prevents escalation and reduces health system load.**

**97%**  
Patient satisfaction

**zero**  
Safety concerns

Source: Victorian Department of Health. Victorian Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot Summary Report, May 2025.

**93%**  
patients accessed care within 24hrs

**Immediate care, immediate impact**

**93% of women received care within 24 hours during pharmacy pilots, no GP backlog, no delay. Reducing the load on frontline health services.**

**78%**  
patients were comfortable receiving birth control initiation

**70%**  
comfortable receiving treatment of non-complex UTI

Source: National Voter Research, commissioned by PGA November 2024. 10-minute online survey. Sample size 3453.

**332 rural towns** have community pharmacy as their only frontline healthcare.

**Did you know?**

**UTIs were the #1 condition causing potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPH) in Australia in 2023-24.**

Source: Based on AIHW data, last updated May 2025. UNSW/UTS BEACH data analysis estimating 1.5% of GP consultations are for UTIs.

**1 in 2** women will have a UTI in their lifetime.

**90K+** hospitalisations occur yearly due to UTIs.

**2x** higher in some remote areas.

Source: Based on AIHW data (2023-24 GP attendances) and UNSW/UTS BEACH data analysis estimating 1.5% of GP consultations are for UTIs.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than twice as likely to be hospitalised for UTIs.**

Source: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Fourth Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation - Kidney Infections and Urinary Tract Infections, 2021.

**10,270 UTI**  
Cases managed successfully in QLD pharmacies.

**86%**  
**Symptom resolution**  
Pharmacists referred appropriately when needed

Source: UTIPP-Q Services Evaluation Report, Queensland Health / QUT, 2023

**UTIs account for an estimated 2,850,000 MBS items per year!**

Source: Based on Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) & University of Sydney, Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program, 2023-24.

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

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, 2025.

**5977**  
pharmacies across Australia; care is always close, even after hours!

**97%**  
of Australians live within 2.5 km of a pharmacy.

**443.6 million**  
Individual patients visit community pharmacies annually and 2,644 pharmacies open after-hours, including weekends.

**This is called access!**

**Empowering community pharmacy supports women!**

**It also reduces pressure on GPs, and front-line healthcare providers, delivering better outcomes for all Australians.**

**Safe. Fast. And Local.**

**Community pharmacies are ready! Let's break down the barriers to access today!**

**Safe. Accessible. Trusted. Local. Community pharmacy delivers.**