



FACT SHEET

Vital facts on community pharmacy

January 2019

Australia's system of community pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme are recognised as world-leading.

- There are 5,665 community pharmacies in Australia¹
- On average, every person visits a community pharmacy 18 times each year, in metropolitan, rural and remote locations².
- Community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and most accessible health destination, with over 449 million individual patient visits annually and the vast majority of pharmacies open after-hours, including weekends³.
- Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professions along with nurses and doctors. Public opinion surveys have shown that 93% of adults trust the advice they receive from pharmacists⁴.
- More than 94 per cent of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation⁵.
- Over 2 billion medicine records have been created using the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) platform⁶.
- 99 per cent of dispenses PBS prescriptions are now claimed electronically online⁷.
- Over 4 million clinical interventions by pharmacists were recorded electronically last year⁸.
- In capital cities, 95 per cent of consumers are no further than 2.5 km from a pharmacy. In regional areas, 72 per cent of people are within 2.5 km of a pharmacy⁹.

¹ PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions June 2017

² ABS Demographic Statistics, PBS Date of Supply

³ PBS Date of Supply, Guild Digest, unpublished Guild data set, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>

⁴ <https://www.canstarblue.com.au/stores-services/pharmacies/>

⁵ Quality Care Pharmacy Program

⁶ eRX data

⁷ <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/about-us/annual-reports/annual-report-2016-17/services-community-health-and-aged-care>

⁸ Unpublished Guild data set

⁹ Guild Submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation 2016



National Secretariat

Level 2, 15 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

PO Box 310, Fyshwick ACT 2609

P: +61 2 6270 1888 • F: +61 2 6270 1800 • E: guild.nat@guild.org.au

www.guild.org.au

- Six Community Pharmacy Agreements have been negotiated between the Government and the Guild, underpinning pharmacies and the PBS over 25 years.
- The Guild estimates the Government will save \$20 billion through PBS Reforms during the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement¹⁰.
- Community pharmacies employ about 87,000 staff across Australia – nearly 80 per cent are women. Two-thirds of Australia's 30,000 registered pharmacists work in community pharmacies¹¹.
- 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.
- There are at least 230,000 hospitalisations a year attributable to medication related issues, costing \$1.2 billion a year. Medicines adherence is an important role for community pharmacists¹².
- Between June 2016 and May 2017 there were 14.6 million dose administration aids provided by community pharmacies to patients to assist them to remain living at home.¹³
- Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points.
- Many community pharmacists are now trained to administer vaccinations to adults – a sample of around 900 pharmacies found over 150,000 Australians have received their influenza vaccination directly from their local pharmacy in the 2018 'flu season¹⁴.

Please note – this information is accurate as at 11 January 2019.

¹⁰ Department of Health Portfolio Budget Statements, various

¹¹ Guild Digest 2018, Summary of Pharmacy Performance 2016-2017

¹² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2016-17

¹³ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pharmacy-practice-incentives-program-data>

¹⁴ Unpublished Guild data set