Community Pharmacy – supporting your health and your community

There are over 5,700 pharmacies in local communities around Australia owned and operated by pharmacists. Community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and most accessible health service provider with over 453 million individual patient visits annually. The vast majority of pharmacies are open after-hours including weekends. In capital cities, 97% of consumers are no further than 2.5km from a pharmacy. In regional areas, 65% of people are within 2.5km of a pharmacy.

Part of your health care team

Community pharmacies are a trusted source of both health and medicine advice, dispensing and other health services. Community pharmacies collaborate with the wider health care system, working with your GP, Aboriginal Health Practitioner, specialists, allied health care providers and hospitals. Your community pharmacy provides personalised medication advice and support to all patients throughout their lives.
**Why visit your community pharmacy?**

Community pharmacies do more than just dispense medicines. Pharmacies are expanding the range of health services they provide to their patients, and are now evolving into local health hubs Australia-wide. Community pharmacies provide medicines, advice and medication reviews including:

- Medication reviews and advice – in the pharmacy, at home, or in residential care facilities
- Diabetes education and advice, and access to the National Diabetes Services Scheme
- Dose administration aids/blister packs

They also provide a wide range of in-pharmacy services to patients. These may include:

- Monitoring of blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels
- Advice and treatment on common ailments
- Mental health support
- Quit smoking support
- Weight management
- TeleHealth Services
- Wound care service
- Immunisation services including influenza vaccination
- Health checks, for example heart health or diabetes screening
- Disease state management consultations, for example, asthma and diabetes

**What does Community Pharmacy mean for you?**

Community pharmacies provide you with easy access to a health care professional who can provide you with advice when you need it. You don’t need an appointment to speak with your local Pharmacist. You can simply walk in to your community pharmacy, approach your Pharmacist and speak to them about the medications you are using amongst other things.

**How does Community Pharmacy work with your community?**

Community pharmacies work with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to improve the quality use of medicines (QUM) by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through a range of support services. These include:

- Providing Dose Administration Aids and other adherence devices - eg. blister pack, dosette boxes
- Home Medicines Review (HMR) models of support
- Maintaining a supply of medicines, including Closing the Gap prescriptions
- Providing medicines education to staff

Some community pharmacies provide in-home services and their community pharmacists provide their expert medicines knowledge outside of the pharmacy, identifying and serving the in-home care needs of patients.

**Who is the Pharmacy Guild of Australia?**

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild) is a national employers’ organisation established in 1928. The Guild acts to represent and promote the value of community pharmacy in the Australian health care system.

**Want more information?**

Find your local Community Pharmacy by visiting [www.findapharmacy.com.au](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au) or for further information contact the Guild on [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au) or the Guild branch in your state or territory.

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*The Pharmacy Guild of Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.*