FACT SHEET

Vital facts on community pharmacy

August 2018

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 440 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 94% 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 dispensed 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³ PBS Date of Supply, Guild Digest, unpublished Guild member data
⁵ Quality Care Pharmacy Program
⁶ eRX data
⁸ Unpublished Guild data
⁹ Guild Submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation 2016
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 Agreement\textsuperscript{10}.

Community pharmacies employ about 80,000 staff across Australia – nearly 80 per cent are women. Two-thirds of Australia’s 30,000 registered pharmacists work in community pharmacies\textsuperscript{11}.

Many 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 pharmacists\textsuperscript{12}.

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.\textsuperscript{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 – more than 130,000 Australians have received their influenza vaccination directly from their local pharmacy in the 2018 ‘flu season\textsuperscript{14}.

\textit{Please note – this information is accurate as at 14 August 2018.}

\textsuperscript{10} Department of Health Portfolio Budget Statements, various
\textsuperscript{11} Guild Digest 2017, Pharmacy Board of Australia Registration Data Tables
\textsuperscript{12} Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2016-17
\textsuperscript{14} Unpublished Guild data