



FACT SHEET

Vital facts on community pharmacy

June 2019

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

- There are 5,723 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 451 million individual patient visits annually and the vast majority of pharmacies open after-hours, including weekends³.
- In 2017-18, under the PBS and RPBS, community pharmacies dispensed almost 210 million Government subsidised (Above Co-Pay) prescriptions.⁴
- 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 pharmacists⁵.
- 65% of patients say they use one pharmacy for everything or at least one category of product / service. 33% of patients state they were driven by convenience of location⁶.
- More than 94 per cent of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation⁷.
- Over 2 billion medicine records have been created using the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) platform⁸.
- As at 30 June 2018, 99.9 per cent of PBS or RPBS prescriptions are now claimed electronically online⁹.

¹ PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Twelve Months to June 2018: Table 13

² ABS Demographic Statistics, PBS Date of Supply

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

⁴ PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Twelve Months to June 2018: Table 15(a)

⁵ <https://www.canstarblue.com.au/stores-services/pharmacies/>

⁶ CP2025_Integrated Market Research Report 2018 – Orima Research

⁷ Quality Care Pharmacy Program

⁸ eRX data

⁹ <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/about-us/annual-reports/annual-report-2017-18-html/part-2-outcomes-and-programs/services-community-health-program-12#a3>



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

- 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 pharmacy¹⁰.
- 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 Agreement¹¹.
- As at 31st December 2018, there were 31,565 registered pharmacists in Australia. 62.5% of pharmacists are women; 37.5% are men¹².
- 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 ¹³
- 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.¹⁴
- Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points for the 1,302,303 Australians with diabetes registered with the NDSS¹⁵.
- More than 200,000 Australians have received flu vaccinations directly from a pharmacy between April 2018 and August 2018.¹⁶

Please note – this information is accurate as at 03 June 2019.

¹⁰ Guild Submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation 2016

¹¹ Department of Health Portfolio Budget Statements, various

¹² Pharmacy Board of Australia Registrant Data

¹³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2016-17

¹⁴ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pharmacy-practice-incentives-program-data>

¹⁵ <https://www.ndss.com.au/data-snapshots>; Data Snapshot – All types of diabetes (Mar 2019)

¹⁶ <https://www.australianpharmacist.com.au/new-research-shows-support-for-pharmacy-vaccinations/>