



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Vital facts on community pharmacy

1



As of June 2025, there are **6,013** community pharmacies in Australia.¹

2

On average, every person visits a community pharmacy **18** times each year, in metropolitan, rural and remote locations.²



3



Community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and most accessible health destination, with over **443.6 million** individual patient visits annually and **2,127 pharmacies** open after-hours, including weekends.³

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In the financial year 2024-25, under the PBS and RPBS, community pharmacies dispensed around **327.2 million** prescriptions in total (including both above and under co-payment prescriptions), accounting for 99% of the total prescriptions.⁴

5



Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professions along with nurses and doctors. Public opinion surveys have shown that **84%** of adults trust the advice they receive from pharmacists.⁵

1. Department of Health and Aged Care, PBS Expenditure and Prescription Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, Table 13

2. Pearson, D., De Iure, R. (2021) NAB Pharmacy Survey 2021. NAB. <https://business.nab.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NAB-Pharmacy-report-FINAL.pdf>

3. GuildLink data

4. Department of Health and Aged Care, PBS and RPBS Section 85 Date of Supply Data

5. Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey 2017, <https://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7244-roy-morgan-image-of-professions-may-2017-201706051543>



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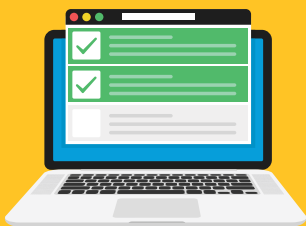
In capital cities, **96%** of people have access to at least one pharmacy within 2.5 km radius, while in the rest of Australia **74%** of people are within 2.5 km of a pharmacy.⁶

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Over **95%** of community pharmacies in Australia are QCPP accredited.⁷

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As of 30 June 2025, **99.9%** of approved suppliers of PBS or RPBS medicines used online claiming.⁸

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Between May 2020 – September 2024, over **266 million** electronic prescriptions issued for patients (original and pharmacy repeat prescriptions).⁹

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As of September 2025, there were **41,451** registered pharmacists in Australia. **64.7%** of pharmacists are women; and about **57.6%** are under 40 years of age.¹⁰



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53% of patients say they use one pharmacy for everything or at least one category of product/service. **38%** of patients state they were driven by convenience of location.¹¹



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6. Macroplan 2023

7. Quality Care Pharmacy Program

8. Services Australia Annual Report 2024-25, Page 69

9. Australian Digital Health Agency, Electronic Prescriptions

10. Pharmacy Board of Australia - Statistics

11. CP2025_Integrated Market Research Report 2018 – Orima Research



12

8CPA 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement

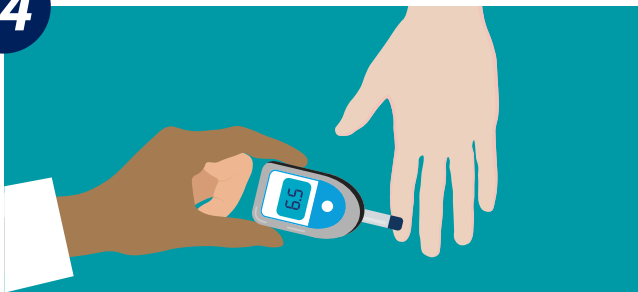
Eight Community Pharmacy Agreements have been negotiated between the Government and the Guild, underpinning patient access to PBS medicines and professional services for over 30 years. The 8CPA, commenced from 1 July 2024, has an overall funding envelope of **\$26.44 billion** with additional \$4.88 billion increase (22%) from 7CPA.¹²

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In 2023–24, **778,045** of all hospitalisations were classified as potentially preventable. Of these, **269,885** potentially preventable public hospitalisations and **74,557** private hospitalisations were due to chronic conditions (excluding diabetes). Medicines adherence is an important role for community pharmacists.¹³



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Community pharmacies provide the majority of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points for the **1,527,684** Australians with diabetes registered with the NDSS.¹⁴

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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.

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In the financial year 2024–25, community pharmacies provided **18.65 million** DoseAdministration Aids (DAAs), valued at **\$115.52 million**, to help patients remain living at home.¹⁵



Between July and November 2025, **8.05 million** DAAs services worth **\$49.97 million** were delivered.

17



Community Pharmacist-Led medication adherence interventions have improved adherence rates by **9.3%** and reduced health system costs by **\$1.9 billion**.¹⁶

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12. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, <https://www.guild.org.au/programs/8cpa>

13. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Admitted Patient Care 2023-24, Table 8.2

14. National Diabetes Services Scheme, Diabetes data snapshots, January 2026, <https://www.ndss.com.au/about-diabetes/diabetes-facts-and-figures/diabetes-data-snapshots>

15. Department of Health and Aged Care, Pharmacy programs data, <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/pharmacy-programs-data>

16. Dovepress Journal – Patient Preference and Adherence: Pharmacist-led medication non-adherence intervention: reducing the economic burden placed on the Australian Health Care system