

# VITAL FACTS ON COMMUNITY PHARMACY



## The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

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



There are 5,723 community pharmacies in Australia<sup>1</sup>



On average, every person visits a community pharmacy 18 times each year, in metropolitan, rural and remote locations<sup>2</sup>



Community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and most accessible health destination, with over 453 million individual patient visits annually and the vast majority of pharmacies open after-hours, including weekends<sup>3</sup>



In 2017-18, under the PBS and RPBS, community pharmacies dispensed almost 210 million Government subsidised (Above Co-Pay) prescriptions<sup>4</sup>



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 pharmacists<sup>5</sup>



More than 94% of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation<sup>7</sup>



More than 90% of Australian Pharmacies use the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) platform of which 4,300 pharmacies use eRx every day<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>10</sup>



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 location<sup>6</sup>



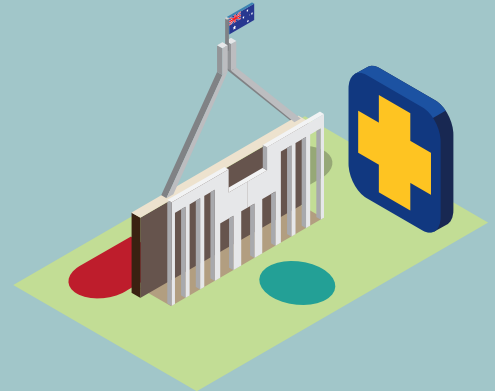
# VITAL FACTS ON COMMUNITY PHARMACY



The Guild estimates the Government will save \$20 billion through PBS reforms during the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement<sup>11</sup>



As at 30 June 2019, there were 31,955 registered pharmacists in Australia of which 62.8% are women and over 60% are under 40 years of age.



Six Community Pharmacy Agreements have been negotiated between the Government and the Guild, underpinning pharmacies and the PBS over 25 years.



In 2017-18 there were 229,080 potentially preventable public hospitalisations and 64,086 private hospitalisations from chronic conditions (excluding diabetes). Medicines adherence is an important role for community pharmacists<sup>14</sup>



Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points for the 1,309,070 Australians with diabetes who have registered with the NDSS<sup>17</sup>



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<sup>16</sup>



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.

Community-pharmacist led medication-adherence interventions have improved adherence rates by 9.3% and reduced health system costs by \$1.9 billion<sup>13</sup>



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[guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au)

*Please note – this information is accurate as at 20 August 2019.*

<sup>1</sup> PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Twelve Months to June 2018; Table 13

<sup>2</sup> ABS Demographic Statistics, PBS Date of Supply

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

<sup>4</sup> PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Twelve Months to June 2018; Table 15(a)

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

<sup>6</sup> CP2025 Integrated Market Research Report 2018 – Orima Research

<sup>7</sup> Quality Care Pharmacy Program

<sup>8</sup> eRX data: <https://www.erx.com.au/>

<sup>9</sup> <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>

<sup>10</sup> Guild Submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation 2016

<sup>11</sup> Department of Health Portfolio Budget Statements, various

<sup>12</sup> Pharmacy Board of Australia Registrant Data;

<sup>13</sup> Dovepress Journal – Patient Preference and Adherence: Pharmacist-led medication non-adherence intervention: reducing the economic burden placed on the Australian Health Care system

<sup>14</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2017-18; Table 8.2

<sup>15</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care; <https://www.psa.org.au/medicine-safety/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pharmacy-practice-incentives-program-data>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ndss.com.au/wp-content/uploads/snapshots/2019/ndss-data-snapshot-201906-all-types-diabetes.pdf>