

# 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.  
May - June 2021



There are 5,822 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 462 million individual patient visits annually and the vast majority of pharmacies open after-hours, including weekends<sup>3</sup>



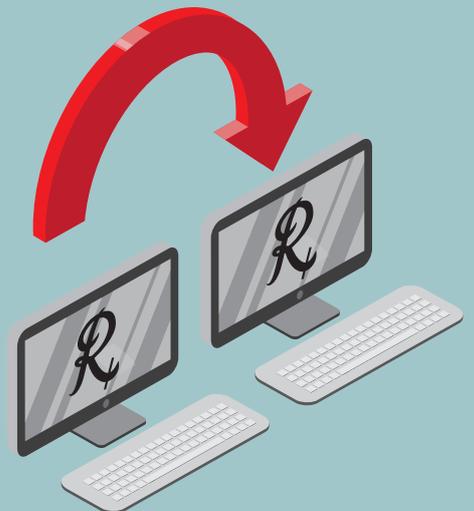
In 2020, under the PBS and RPBS, community pharmacies dispensed almost 216.7 million Government subsidised (Above Co-Pay) prescriptions<sup>4</sup>



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



More than 94% of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation<sup>6</sup>



As at 30th June 2020, 99.9 per cent of PBS or RPBS prescriptions are now claimed electronically online<sup>6</sup>.



In capital cities, 97 per cent of people have access to at least one pharmacy within 2.5 km radius, while in the rest of Australia 66 per cent of people are within 2.5 km 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>



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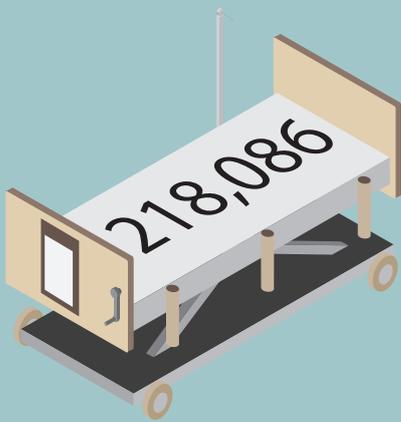
9,992,942 million electronic Prescriptions issued in total (original and pharmacy repeat prescriptions)<sup>8</sup>



As at 31 March 2021, there were 35,182 registered pharmacists in Australia. 63.0% of pharmacists are women; and over 60% are under 40 years of age<sup>11</sup>.



Seven 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.



In 2019–20, 712,017 of all hospitalisations were classified as potentially preventable. Of these, 218,086 potentially preventable public hospitalisations and 61,812 private hospitalisations were due to chronic conditions (excluding diabetes). Medicines adherence is an important role for community pharmacists.<sup>13</sup>



Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points for the 1,405,254 Australians with diabetes who have registered with the NDSS<sup>15</sup>



Between July 2019 and June 2020 there were 16.3 million dose administration aids provided by community pharmacies to patients to assist them to remain living at home<sup>14</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>12</sup>



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

*Please note – this information is accurate as at 17 June 2021.*

- 1 PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Twelve Months to June 2020: Table 13
- 2 ABS Demographic Statistics, PBS Date of Supply
- 3 PBS Date of Supply, Guild Digest, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsl/mf/3101.0>
- 4 Department of Health, Date of Supply Report, downloaded 15 June 2021, Accessed at <https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/statistics/dos-and-dop/dos-and-dop>
- 5 <https://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7244-roy-morgan-image-of-professions-may-2017-201706051543>
- 6 CP2025 Integrated Market Research Report 2018 – Orima Research
- 7 Quality Care Pharmacy Program
- 8 Australian Digital Health Agency, [www.digitalhealth.gov.au](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au), 17 June 2021
- 9 <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/annual-report-2019-20.pdf>; Page 25
- 10 The Pharmacy Guild of Australia 2020
- 11 Pharmacy Board of Australia Registrant Data:
- 12 Dovepress Journal – Patient Preference and Adherence: Pharmacist-led medication non-adherence intervention: reducing the economic burden placed on the Australian Health Care system
- 13 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Admitted Patient Care 2018-19; Table 8.2; <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/admitted-patients>
- 14 <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pharmacy-practice-incentives-program-data>
- 15 <https://www.ndss.com.au/wp-content/uploads/ndss-data-snapshot-202012-all-types-diabetes.pdf>; Data Snapshot – All types of diabetes (December 2020)