



Vital facts on community pharmacy

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

- There are 5,587 community pharmacies in Australia.
- The average Australian visits a pharmacy 14 times a year. Annually there are about 350 million individual patient visits to pharmacies.
- Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professions along with nurses and doctors. Public opinion surveys have shown that 95% of patients are satisfied with their community pharmacy.
- More than 94 per cent of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation.
- Pharmacies dispense more than 290 million prescriptions a year.
- Over 1 billion medicine records have been created using the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) platform.
- 99 per cent of dispensed PBS prescriptions are now claimed electronically online.
- Nearly 3 million clinical interventions by pharmacists were recorded electronically last year.
- 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 pharmacy.
- 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.
- Community pharmacies employ about 60,000 staff across Australia – nearly 80 per cent are women. Two-thirds of Australia's 30,000 registered pharmacists work in community pharmacies.
- Pharmacies deliver opioid replacement therapy and needle and syringes across Australia.



- 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.
- More than 11 million dose administration aid devices are provided each year to Australians living in their own homes.
- Community pharmacies provide a national network of National Diabetes Services Scheme access points.
- Pharmacies have recorded over 3 million codeine purchases through MedsASSIST since March 2016.
- Many community pharmacists are now trained to administer vaccinations to adults – more than 70,000 Australians received their influenza vaccination directly from their local pharmacy in the 2016 'flu season.

For further information contact:

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Phone: 02 6270 1888

Fax: 02 6270 1800

Email: guild.nat@guild.org.au

Level 2, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 Australia

PO Box 310, Fyshwick ACT 2609 Australia

www.guild.org.au