



World Pharmacists Day: Pharmacists strengthening health systems

Pharmacists are integral to a sustainable health system.

At a time when health systems around the world are recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and consensus is that urgent action is needed for health services to meet future needs, this year's World Pharmacists Day campaign presents opportunities to increase awareness of pharmacists as an intelligent solution.

As PSA co-hosts the 2023 FIP World Congress in Brisbane, we are celebrating pharmacists around Australia and the world.

Pharmacy in Australia

- The average Australian visits a community pharmacy **18 times** each year
- **97% of people** living in capital cities have access to **at least one pharmacy within 2.5 km** radius, while 66% of people living in the rest of Australia are within 2.5 km of a pharmacy.
- **Over 10 million** COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered by pharmacists around Australia, in addition to influenza and other routine vaccinations.

Medicine Safety

The use of medicines is the most common intervention in health care. The safe and appropriate use of medicines transforms people's health for the better.

PSA landmark report [Medicine Safety: Take Care](#) found 250,000 Australians are hospitalised each year and another 400,000 present to emergency departments as a result of medicine problems. At least half of this harm could have been prevented.

Pharmacists practise in a range of areas, including in community pharmacies, hospitals, aged care facilities, General Practices, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, and as independent consultants.

All of these roles are vital to ensuring medicines are used safely and effectively for all patients, in all areas of the health system.

Quick stats - Pharmacists (as at 30 Jun 2023)

ACT – 766 registered pharmacists
NSW – 10,613 registered pharmacists
NT – 276 registered pharmacists
QLD – 7,194 registered pharmacists
SA – 2,579 registered pharmacists
TAS – 897 registered pharmacists
VIC – 9,508 registered pharmacists
WA – 3,995 registered pharmacists

Pharmacy Board of Australia, 30 June 2023