

Uncap care: fairer access to safe use of medicines

Background:

- A Heads of Agreement between the Albanese government and PSA for the First Pharmacy Programs Agreement (1PPA) was announced in December 2025.
- Urgent investment is needed in the 2026-27 Federal Budget to ensure ongoing sustainability of these essential Pharmacy Programs.

Medicine Safety Programs:

- Protect patients from medicine-related harm, hospitalisation and death
- Are delivered by skilled, credentialed pharmacists
- Take place outside traditional pharmacy settings – in patient’s homes and residential care
- Are not part of the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

PSA is seeking to:



Reinstate indexation

- Indexation of service fees for Medicine Safety Programs were frozen in 2019
- Pharmacists have effectively had yearly pay-cuts for seven years
- Highly skilled workforce is at imminent risk of decline



Remove caps

- Pharmacists are capped at delivering 30 Home Medicines Reviews per month
- Patients are waiting weeks or months for this time-critical service
- Patient access to urgent care is unnecessarily restricted



Enable flexible delivery

- Current program rules are outdated and inefficient
- Patients are not receiving follow ups reviews which could be delivered by telehealth
- Delivering care in culturally and physically safe locations is restricted

Without investment:

- **Medicine safety will be compromised as service provision declines**
 - × Patients experience unacceptable delays to be seen
- **Avoidable harm occurs**
 - × Downstream healthcare costs rise, including preventable hospitalisations
- **Negative impact on patient care**
 - × Rural, remote and First Nations Australians most affected



About PSA

PSA is the only government-recognised national peak body which represents all of Australia’s 41,000 pharmacists, practising in all areas of practice across the health system.

PSA’s role includes being the custodian of setting and maintaining professional practice standards for pharmacists (and relevant practice guidelines).

PSA is the custodian of the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and leads the development of the Competency Standards.

