

**Report on Key Performance Measures (KPM)**

for the

**Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA)**

August 2022

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# Introduction

Key Performance Measures (KPM) for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) were developed as an evaluation framework for operation of the 7CPA. The KPM aim to enable Government, the pharmacy sector and the community to assess impacts of the 7CPA, based on the available evidence, and whether objectives and health outcomes have been achieved effectively and efficiently under the 7CPA.

The KPM are a new undertaking under the 7CPA. No other evaluation mechanisms were developed under previous Community Pharmacy Agreements. As no specific funding has been made available under the 7CPA for monitoring and evaluation, the KPM have been confined to measures that stem from existing processes, available data and resources, with no additional costs to Government.

The KPM were developed in collaboration between the Department of Health and key stakeholders including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Consumers Health Forum of Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

KPM reports will be published on a biannual basis, subject to the availability of required data. The KPM will be reviewed in consultation with key stakeholders, named above.

Key objectives and outcomes to be monitored for the 7CPA are to:

1. Demonstrate transparency and accountability while supplying Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for all Australians;
2. Continue to supply National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) products through community pharmacies;
3. Support professional initiatives for pharmacists to better fulfil their current scope of practice;
4. Ensure all Australians have access to pharmacy services and programs that support the safe and quality use of medicines; and
5. Support access to medicines and pharmacy services for Australians in regional, rural, and remote areas.

Being the first report on KPM for the 7CPA, this report presents information relevant to the first three six-month reporting periods under the 7CPA: **1 July – 31 December 2020**; **1 January – 30 June 2021**; and **1 July – 31 December 2021**.

The information in this document should be read in conjunction with the [KPM for the 7CPA](https://www.pbs.gov.au/general/7cpa/KPM-for-7CPA-Feb-2022.pdf) and [KPM for 7CPA – Key Policy Principles](https://www.pbs.gov.au/general/7cpa/KPM-for-7CPA-Key-Policy-Principles-Feb-2022.pdf), which are each available on the Department of Health’s [website](https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/key-performance-measures-for-the-seventh-community-pharmacy).

# Objective 1: Demonstrate transparency and accountability while supplying Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for all Australians

## Provision of pharmaceutical benefits in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, professional standards, codes and other requirements (7CPA, Clause 7).

The following tables present information on:

* Total prescriptions and expenditure for s90 pharmacies[[1]](#footnote-2), for PBS and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) items by patient category and state / territory – *Tables 1(a)-1, 1(a)-2, 1(a)-3, 1(a)-4, 1(a)-5, 1(a)-7, 1(a)-8 and 1(a)-9*
* Patient contribution and Government cost for PBS items dispensed by s90 pharmacies *– Table 1(a)-6*
* Over and under co-payment PBS prescriptions for items dispensed by s90 pharmacies *– Table 1(a)-2*
* Discounted and non-discounted PBS/RPBS items dispensed by s90 pharmacies – *Tables 1(a)-10 and 1(a)-11*
* PBS remuneration for s90 pharmacies and wholesalers *– Tables 1(a)-12*
* PBS items supplied in bulk and individually for clients of Remote Area Aboriginal Health Services – *Tables 1(a)-13*

This report has been produced using PBS online claims data maintained by the Department of Health and sourced from Services Australia. Data were extracted on 19 May 2022.

Table 1(a)-1: Total PBS Expenditure by Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **PBS Expenditure**  | **Percentage**  | **PBS Expenditure**  | **Percentage**  | **PBS Expenditure**  | **Percentage**  |
| Section 85 - Concessional | $3,492,803,340 | 64.5% | $3,020,333,415 | 61.3% | $3,587,795,173 | 62.3% |
| Section 85 - General | $1,121,789,740 | 20.7% | $1,101,059,315 | 22.4% | $1,319,579,587 | 22.9% |
| Doctor's Bag | $7,513,848 | 0.1% | $7,457,164 | 0.2% | $6,792,987 | 0.1% |
| Section 100 | $792,107,640 | 14.6% | $796,953,411 | 16.2% | $843,605,549 | 14.7% |
| ***Total*** | ***$5,414,214,568*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$4,925,803,305*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$5,757,773,296*** | ***100.0%*** |

*Note: Excludes expenditure for RPBS items.*

Table 1(a)-2: PBS Prescription volumes by Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies)

Section 85 and Section 100, including Drs Bag and under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **PBS prescriptions** | **Percentage** | **PBS prescriptions** | **Percentage** | **PBS prescriptions** | **Percentage** |
| Concessional Non-Safety Net | 56,439,451 | 51.0% | 85,712,721 | 86.3% | 56,277,529 | 50.5% |
| Concessional Safety Net | 44,590,450 | 40.3% | 5,799,223 | 5.8% | 44,391,270 | 39.9% |
| ***Total Concessional*** | ***101,029,901*** | ***91.3%*** | ***91,511,944*** | ***92.2%*** | ***100,668,799*** | ***90.4%*** |
| General Non-Safety Net | 6,844,774 | 6.2% | 7,489,760 | 7.5% | 7,785,899 | 7.0% |
| General Safety Net | 2,663,268 | 2.4% | 114,690 | 0.1% | 2,730,991 | 2.5% |
| ***Total General*** | ***9,508,042*** | ***8.6%*** | ***7,604,450*** | ***7.7%*** | ***10,516,890*** | ***9.4%*** |
| Doctors Bag | 176,536 | 0.2% | 183,911 | 0.2% | 165,860 | 0.1% |
| ***Total (Over Co-payment)*** | ***110,714,479*** | ***100.0%*** | ***99,300,305*** | ***100.0%*** | ***111,351,549*** | ***100.0%*** |
| Under Co-payment scripts | 44,774,147 |  | 47,277,503 |  | 48,466,911 |  |
| ***Total (Over and Under Co-payment)*** | ***155,488,626*** |  | ***146,577,808*** |  | ***159,818,460*** |  |

Table 1(a)-3: PBS Government Cost by Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies)

Section 85 and Section 100, including Drs Bag and excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Government Cost** | **Percentage** | **Government Cost** | **Percentage** | **Government Cost** | **Percentage** |
| Concessional Non-Safety Net | $2,251,424,405 | 41.6% | $3,208,008,735 | 65.1% | $2,322,869,670 | 40.3% |
| Concessional Safety Net | $1,651,287,558 | 30.5% | $216,817,335 | 4.4% | $1,693,323,829 | 29.4% |
| ***Total Concessional*** | ***$3,902,711,963*** | ***72.1%*** | ***$3,424,826,070*** | ***69.5%*** | ***$4,016,193,499*** | ***69.8%*** |
| General Non-Safety Net | $1,378,768,213 | 25.5% | $1,488,211,524 | 30.2% | $1,599,951,483 | 27.8% |
| General Safety Net | $125,220,544 | 2.3% | $5,308,546 | 0.1% | $134,835,327 | 2.3% |
| ***Total General*** | ***$1,503,988,757*** | ***27.8%*** | ***$1,493,520,070*** | ***30.3%*** | ***$1,734,786,810*** | ***30.1%*** |
| Doctors Bag | $7,513,848 | 0.1% | $7,457,164 | 0.2% | $6,792,987 | 0.1% |
| ***Total (Over Co-payment)*** | ***$5,414,214,568*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$4,925,803,305*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$5,757,773,296*** | ***100.0%*** |

Table 1(a)-4: RPBS and PBS Prescription volumes for DVA patients (s90 Pharmacies)

PBS Section 85 and Section 100 and RPBS items for DVA patients, excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Subsidised prescriptions** | **Percentage** | **Subsidised prescriptions** | **Percentage** | **Subsidised prescriptions** | **Percentage** |
| Repatriation Non-Safety Net | 1,741,026 | 44.2% | 3,225,236 | 90.8% | 1,690,524 | 45.3% |
| Repatriation Safety Net | 2,197,494 | 55.8% | 328,177 | 9.2% | 2,045,201 | 54.7% |
| ***Total Repatriation*** | ***3,938,520*** | ***100.0%*** | ***3,553,413*** | ***100.0%*** | ***3,735,725*** | ***100.0%*** |

Table 1(a)-5: RPBS and PBS Government Cost for DVA patients (s90 Pharmacies)

PBS Section 85 and Section 100 and RPBS items for DVA patients, excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Government Cost** | **Percentage** | **Government Cost** | **Percentage** | **Government Cost** | **Percentage** |
| Repatriation Non-Safety Net | $71,296,782.47 | 48.3% | $117,100,472.07 | 90.7% | $74,270,792.35 | 49.9% |
| Repatriation Safety Net | $76,332,917.20 | 51.7% | $12,003,027.81 | 9.3% | $74,575,519.13 | 50.1% |
| ***Total Repatriation*** | ***$147,629,700*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$129,103,500*** | ***100.0%*** | ***$148,846,311*** | ***100.0%*** |

Table 1(a)-6: Patient Contribution and Government Cost by Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies)

Section 85 and Section 100, including Drs Bag, excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Patient Contribution\*** | **Government Cost** | **Patient Contribution\*** | **Government Cost** | **Patient Contribution\*** | **Government Cost** |
| Concessional Non-Safety Net | $359,653,442 | $2,251,424,405 | $547,002,944 | $3,208,008,735 | $356,789,189 | $2,322,869,670 |
| Concessional Safety Net | $0 | $1,651,287,558 | $0 | $216,817,335 | $0 | $1,693,323,829 |
| ***Total Concessional*** | ***$359,653,442*** | ***$3,902,711,963*** | ***$547,002,944*** | ***$3,424,826,070*** | ***$356,789,189*** | ***$4,016,193,499*** |
| General Non-Safety Net | $252,093,751 | $1,378,768,213 | $276,710,349 | $1,488,211,524 | $285,688,978 | $1,599,951,483 |
| General Safety Net | $16,994,749 | $125,220,544 | $721,611 | $5,308,546 | $17,387,053 | $134,835,327 |
| ***Total General*** | ***$269,088,500*** | ***$1,503,988,757*** | ***$277,431,960*** | ***$1,493,520,070*** | ***$303,076,031*** | ***$1,734,786,810*** |
| ***Total (excl. Drs Bag)*** | ***$628,741,942*** | ***$5,406,700,720*** | ***$824,434,904*** | ***$4,918,346,140*** | ***$659,865,220*** | ***$5,750,980,309*** |
| Doctors Bag | $0 | $7,513,848 | $0 | $7,457,164 | $0 | $6,792,987 |
| ***Total (Incl. Drs Bag)*** | ***$628,741,942*** | ***$5,414,214,568*** | ***$824,434,904*** | ***$4,925,803,305*** | ***$659,865,220*** | ***$5,757,773,296*** |

*\* The patient contribution does not include the effect of the $1 PBS patient co-payment discount.*

Table 1(a)-7: PBS Prescriptions by Pharmacy State/Territory and Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies), 1 July – 31 December 2020

Section 85 and Section 100, excluding Drs Bag and excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |
| --- |
| **PBS Prescriptions** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | 18,038,508 | 14,045,927 | 11,780,648 | 4,766,469 | 5,387,338 | 1,584,709 | 245,589 | 590,263 | 56,439,451 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | 15,184,237 | 10,791,857 | 9,126,119 | 3,777,985 | 3,858,699 | 1,317,820 | 82,019 | 451,714 | 44,590,450 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | 2,297,598 | 1,586,105 | 1,402,038 | 435,321 | 755,093 | 150,361 | 66,844 | 151,414 | 6,844,774 |
| **General Safety Net** | 935,837 | 626,443 | 485,386 | 179,414 | 298,674 | 53,048 | 8,878 | 75,588 | 2,663,268 |
| ***Total*** | ***36,456,180*** | ***27,050,332*** | ***22,794,191*** | ***9,159,189*** | ***10,299,804*** | ***3,105,938*** | ***403,330*** | ***1,268,979*** | ***110,537,943*** |
| **Government Cost** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $829,887,190 | $507,811,705 | $439,012,902 | $167,495,041 | $220,604,629 | $55,464,231 | $8,105,712 | $23,042,996 | $2,251,424,405 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $565,590,024 | $399,125,307 | $331,386,709 | $135,290,432 | $149,602,219 | $49,613,446 | $2,710,265 | $17,969,157 | $1,651,287,558 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $513,029,662 | $332,432,594 | $238,300,590 | $82,130,016 | $153,467,358 | $25,421,518 | $7,080,823 | $26,905,652 | $1,378,768,213 |
| **General Safety Net** | $42,749,485 | $31,346,339 | $21,514,981 | $8,072,984 | $15,092,317 | $2,516,691 | $370,266 | $3,557,480 | $125,220,544 |
| ***Total*** | ***$1,951,256,362*** | ***$1,270,715,945*** | ***$1,030,215,182*** | ***$392,988,473*** | ***$538,766,522*** | ***$133,015,886*** | ***$18,267,066*** | ***$71,475,284*** | ***$5,406,700,720*** |
| **Total Cost\*** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $943,891,305 | $599,572,713 | $513,138,234 | $198,047,781 | $254,683,656 | $65,534,966 | $9,351,970 | $26,857,222 | $2,611,077,847 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $565,590,024 | $399,125,307 | $331,386,709 | $135,290,432 | $149,602,219 | $49,613,446 | $2,710,265 | $17,969,157 | $1,651,287,558 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $595,404,639 | $395,296,536 | $287,791,617 | $98,436,976 | $181,436,156 | $30,783,177 | $8,932,161 | $32,780,702 | $1,630,861,964 |
| **General Safety Net** | $48,695,538 | $35,437,105 | $24,556,901 | $9,222,031 | $16,992,608 | $2,847,542 | $416,697 | $4,046,870 | $142,215,293 |
| ***Total*** | ***$2,153,581,505*** | ***$1,429,431,660*** | ***$1,156,873,462*** | ***$440,997,220*** | ***$602,714,639*** | ***$148,779,131*** | ***$21,411,093*** | ***$81,653,951*** | ***$6,035,442,662*** |

*\* Total Cost includes cost to the patient and cost to the Government for PBS Subsidised Prescriptions (Section 85 and Section 100 prescriptions).*

Table 1(a)-8: PBS Prescriptions by Pharmacy State/Territory and Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies), 1 January – 30 June 2021

Section 85 and Section 100, excluding Drs Bag and excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |
| --- |
| **PBS Prescriptions** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | 27,840,435 | 21,118,305 | 17,906,932 | 7,244,386 | 7,907,166 | 2,485,630 | 312,241 | 897,626 | 85,712,721 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | 2,089,079 | 1,338,031 | 1,210,502 | 462,651 | 455,744 | 174,124 | 8,306 | 60,786 | 5,799,223 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | 2,514,649 | 1,730,476 | 1,539,307 | 473,157 | 826,000 | 165,665 | 71,278 | 169,228 | 7,489,760 |
| **General Safety Net** | 41,347 | 29,639 | 19,402 | 6,253 | 12,108 | 1,921 | 346 | 3,674 | 114,690 |
| ***Total*** | ***32,485,510*** | ***24,216,451*** | ***20,676,143*** | ***8,186,447*** | ***9,201,018*** | ***2,827,340*** | ***392,171*** | ***1,131,314*** | ***99,116,394*** |
| **Government Cost** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $1,157,168,782 | $732,802,938 | $632,399,217 | $250,197,571 | $307,077,886 | $84,077,781 | $9,914,810 | $34,369,750 | $3,208,008,735 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $77,123,800 | $50,352,312 | $44,474,121 | $17,071,220 | $18,137,837 | $6,874,923 | $278,068 | $2,505,054 | $216,817,335 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $549,532,401 | $357,410,298 | $258,277,389 | $89,640,077 | $168,717,984 | $27,946,124 | $6,939,553 | $29,747,697 | $1,488,211,524 |
| **General Safety Net** | $1,811,740 | $1,470,162 | $900,787 | $237,988 | $568,812 | $125,269 | $9,410 | $184,378 | $5,308,546 |
| ***Total*** | ***$1,785,636,722*** | ***$1,142,035,710*** | ***$936,051,514*** | ***$357,146,856*** | ***$494,502,521*** | ***$119,024,096*** | ***$17,141,843*** | ***$66,806,879*** | ***$4,918,346,140*** |
| **Total Cost\*** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $1,333,455,046 | $870,750,389 | $745,297,602 | $296,728,469 | $357,333,738 | $99,800,862 | $11,479,598 | $40,165,976 | $3,755,011,680 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $77,123,800 | $50,352,312 | $44,474,121 | $17,071,220 | $18,137,837 | $6,874,923 | $278,068 | $2,505,054 | $216,817,335 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $639,936,155 | $426,151,965 | $312,867,146 | $107,478,763 | $199,435,766 | $33,847,220 | $8,875,354 | $36,329,505 | $1,764,921,873 |
| **General Safety Net** | $2,072,030 | $1,662,889 | $1,021,409 | $275,033 | $642,686 | $136,773 | $11,423 | $207,914 | $6,030,157 |
| ***Total*** | ***$2,052,587,031*** | ***$1,348,917,554*** | ***$1,103,660,278*** | ***$421,553,486*** | ***$575,550,028*** | ***$140,659,777*** | ***$20,644,443*** | ***$79,208,448*** | ***$5,742,781,045*** |

*\* Total Cost includes cost to the patient and cost to the Government for PBS Subsidised Prescriptions (S85 and S100 prescriptions).*

Table 1(a)-9: PBS Prescriptions by Pharmacy State/Territory and Patient Category (s90 Pharmacies), 1 July – 31 December 2021

Section 85 and Section 100, excluding Drs Bag and excluding under co-payment prescriptions

|  |
| --- |
| **PBS Prescriptions** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | 17,882,347 | 13,937,920 | 11,899,062 | 4,733,609 | 5,396,426 | 1,586,256 | 255,478 | 586,431 | 56,277,529 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | 14,856,405 | 10,803,902 | 9,215,769 | 3,715,194 | 3,933,118 | 1,318,292 | 90,600 | 457,990 | 44,391,270 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | 2,563,096 | 1,818,272 | 1,624,961 | 483,139 | 874,586 | 174,515 | 77,788 | 169,542 | 7,785,899 |
| **General Safety Net** | 941,342 | 653,429 | 497,934 | 180,340 | 313,799 | 55,977 | 9,138 | 79,032 | 2,730,991 |
| ***Total*** | ***36,243,190*** | ***27,213,523*** | ***23,237,726*** | ***9,112,282*** | ***10,517,929*** | ***3,135,040*** | ***433,004*** | ***1,292,995*** | ***111,185,689*** |
| **Government Cost** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $855,022,099 | $526,396,466 | $451,822,545 | $174,416,933 | $226,425,153 | $56,978,707 | $8,407,094 | $23,400,673 | $2,322,869,670 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $569,367,413 | $410,131,799 | $344,883,177 | $139,939,639 | $156,374,259 | $50,826,545 | $3,082,309 | $18,718,689 | $1,693,323,829 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $582,245,386 | $391,875,949 | $278,618,785 | $96,756,044 | $180,829,114 | $30,543,635 | $8,189,718 | $30,892,851 | $1,599,951,483 |
| **General Safety Net** | $45,974,717 | $33,540,996 | $23,693,454 | $8,496,971 | $15,926,077 | $2,828,861 | $352,993 | $4,021,258 | $134,835,327 |
| ***Total*** | ***$2,052,609,615*** | ***$1,361,945,211*** | ***$1,099,017,961*** | ***$419,609,587*** | ***$579,554,602*** | ***$141,177,748*** | ***$20,032,114*** | ***$77,033,471*** | ***$5,750,980,309*** |
| **Total Cost\*** |
| **Categories** | **NSW** | **Vic** | **Qld** | **SA** | **WA** | **Tas** | **NT** | **ACT** | **Australia** |
| **Concessional Non-Safety Net** | $967,462,788 | $617,249,215 | $525,993,029 | $204,707,059 | $260,394,574 | $66,974,539 | $9,700,535 | $27,177,120 | $2,679,658,859 |
| **Concessional Safety Net** | $569,367,413 | $410,131,799 | $344,883,177 | $139,939,639 | $156,374,259 | $50,826,545 | $3,082,309 | $18,718,689 | $1,693,323,829 |
| **General Non-Safety Net** | $673,721,430 | $464,141,490 | $335,233,912 | $115,005,093 | $213,151,913 | $36,650,525 | $10,271,684 | $37,464,412 | $1,885,640,461 |
| **General Safety Net** | $51,934,847 | $37,804,847 | $26,803,770 | $9,652,803 | $17,920,947 | $3,173,216 | $398,579 | $4,533,372 | $152,222,380 |
| ***Total*** | ***$2,262,486,478*** | ***$1,529,327,351*** | ***$1,232,913,888*** | ***$469,304,594*** | ***$647,841,693*** | ***$157,624,824*** | ***$23,453,108*** | ***$87,893,594*** | ***$6,410,845,529*** |

*\* Total Cost includes cost to the patient and cost to the Government for PBS Subsidised Prescriptions (S85 and S100 prescriptions).*

Table 1(a)-10: Discounted and Non-Discounted PBS/RPBS Prescriptions (s90 Pharmacies)

Section 85 and Section 100, excluding Drs Bag and under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Period** | **Prescription Type** | **Concessional** | **General** | **RPBS** | **Total** |
| **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** |
| **1 July – 31 December 2020** | Discounted | 22,219,206 | 22% | 2,759,173 | 29% | 493,701 | 13% | 25,472,080 | 22% |
| Non-discounted | 78,810,695 | 78% | 6,748,869 | 71% | 3,444,819 | 87% | 89,004,383 | 78% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***101,029,901*** | ***100%*** | ***9,508,042*** | ***100%*** | ***3,938,520*** | ***100%*** | ***114,476,463*** | ***100%*** |
| **1 January – 30 June 2021** | Discounted | 26,236,002 | 29% | 2,441,424 | 32% | 614,149 | 17% | 29,291,575 | 29% |
| Non-discounted | 65,275,942 | 71% | 5,163,026 | 68% | 2,939,264 | 83% | 73,378,232 | 71% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***91,511,944*** | ***100%*** | ***7,604,450*** | ***100%*** | ***3,553,413*** | ***100%*** | ***102,669,807*** | ***100%*** |
| **1 July – 31 December 2021** | Discounted | 21,348,221 | 21% | 3,102,456 | 29% | 470,131 | 13% | 24,920,808 | 22% |
| Non-discounted | 79,320,578 | 79% | 7,414,434 | 71% | 3,265,594 | 87% | 90,000,606 | 78% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***100,668,799*** | ***100%*** | ***10,516,890*** | ***100%*** | ***3,735,725*** | ***100%*** | ***114,921,414*** | ***100%*** |

Table 1(a)-11: Discount Range for PBS/RPBS prescriptions (s90 Pharmacies)

Section 85 and Section 100, excluding Drs Bag and under co-payment prescriptions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Period** | **Discount Range** | **Concessional** | **General** | **RPBS** | **Total** |
| **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** | **Prescriptions** | **%** |
| 1 July – 31 December 2020 | $1.00 | 21,726,080 | 97.8% | 2,712,817 | 98.3% | 481,056 | 97.4% | 24,919,953 | 97.8% |
| 0.50 - < $1.00 | 322,333 | 1.5% | 27,971 | 1.0% | 7,283 | 1.5% | 357,587 | 1.4% |
| < 50c | 108,950 | 0.5% | 8,850 | 0.3% | 3,500 | 0.7% | 121,300 | 0.5% |
| Other | 61,843 | 0.3% | 9,535 | 0.3% | 1,862 | 0.4% | 73,240 | 0.3% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***22,219,206*** | ***100.0%*** | ***2,759,173*** | ***100%*** | ***493,701*** | ***100.0%*** | ***25,472,080*** | ***100.0%*** |
| 1 January – 30 June 2021 | $1.00 | 25,593,905 | 97.6% | 2,406,140 | 98.6% | 595,736 | 97.0% | 28,595,781 | 97.6% |
| 0.50 - < $1.00 | 399,226 | 1.5% | 20,034 | 0.8% | 10,257 | 1.7% | 429,517 | 1.5% |
| < 50c | 152,168 | 0.6% | 9,344 | 0.4% | 5,053 | 0.8% | 166,565 | 0.6% |
| Other | 90,703 | 0.3% | 5,906 | 0.2% | 3,103 | 0.5% | 99,712 | 0.3% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***26,236,002*** | ***100.0%*** | ***2,441,424*** | ***100.0%*** | ***614,149*** | ***100.0%*** | ***29,291,575*** | ***100.0%*** |
| 1 July – 31 December 2021 | $1.00 | 20,875,358 | 97.8% | 3,051,355 | 98.4% | 457,560 | 97.3% | 24,384,273 | 97.8% |
| 0.50 - < $1.00 | 302,196 | 1.4% | 27,030 | 0.9% | 7,557 | 1.6% | 336,783 | 1.4% |
| < 50c | 104,055 | 0.5% | 10,839 | 0.3% | 3,001 | 0.6% | 117,895 | 0.5% |
| Other | 66,612 | 0.3% | 13,232 | 0.4% | 2,013 | 0.4% | 81,857 | 0.3% |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***21,348,221*** | ***100.0%*** | ***3,102,456*** | ***100.0%*** | ***470,131*** | ***100.0%*** | ***24,920,808*** | ***100.0%*** |

Table 1(a)-12: Remuneration to s90 Pharmacies and wholesalers for PBS/RPBS Prescriptions

Section 85 and Section 100, including Drs Bag, excluding under co-payment prescriptions

Pharmacy remuneration recognises the cost to pharmacist for the purchase of medicines; the administration, handling and storage costs entailed in dispensing medicines by the pharmacy (including associated infrastructure costs); and a pharmacist's specialised skills in dispensing the medicines.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expenses for PBS and RPBS Prescriptions** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| ***Medicines Price*** |
| Ex-Manufacturer Price | $3,658,315,408 | $3,704,844,309 | $4,236,365,629 |
| Wholesale Mark-Up | $218,531,661 | $206,665,455 | $231,742,582 |
| ***Total Price to Pharmacist*** | ***$3,876,847,069*** | ***$3,911,509,765*** | ***$4,468,108,211*** |
| ***Pharmacy Costs*** |
| Administration, Handling and Infrastructure (AHI) fee | $588,149,273 | $537,658,267 | $603,588,682 |
| Dispensing Fee | $879,243,661 | $790,456,331 | $889,213,495 |
| Dangerous Drug Fee | $20,836,291 | $19,812,029 | $21,398,915 |
| Wastage Fee | $1,677,597 | $2,614,807 | $3,259,737 |
| Container Fee | $659,678 | $756,161 | $619,663 |
| ***Total Pharmacy Remuneration*** | ***$1,490,566,500*** | ***$1,351,297,595*** | ***$1,518,080,492*** |
| ***Total Cost*** | ***$5,367,413,569*** | ***$5,262,807,359*** | ***$5,986,188,703*** |

*Data is for PBS and RPBS prescriptions claimed by community pharmacies and friendly societies for both Section 85 and some Section 100 items. It includes Government and patient contributions.*

Table 1(a)-13: Volume and Expenditure of PBS items supplied in bulk and individually for clients of Remote Area Aboriginal Health Services (RAAHS) by state/territory

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Period** | **RAHHS Supply** | **NSW/TAS\*** | **NT** | **QLD** | **SA** | **WA** | ***Australia*** |
| **1 July – 31 December 2020** | Total Items\*\* | 4,444 | 416,188 | 146,287 | 30,432 | 211,716 | ***809,067*** |
| Total Items Cost | $108,480 | $10,741,550 | $3,977,535 | $839,124 | $5,127,185 | ***$20,793,874*** |
| Individual Items\*\*\* | 1,137 | 233,080 | 75,683 | 15,480 | 132,924 | ***458,304*** |
| Individual Items cost | $5,568 | $1,141,153 | $370,852 | $75,841 | $651,156 | ***$2,244,571*** |
| **1 January – 30 June 2021** | Total Items\*\* | 2,836 | 411,736 | 143,077 | 33,883 | 205,676 | ***797,208*** |
| Total Items Cost | $61,350 | $10,694,145 | $4,035,255 | $918,975 | $5,093,228 | ***$20,802,953*** |
| Individual Items\*\*\* | 311 | 239,833 | 73,942 | 15,352 | 130,601 | ***460,039*** |
| Individual Items cost | $1,527 | $1,176,902 | $363,075 | $74,396 | $641,251 | ***$2,257,151*** |
| **1 July – 31 December 2021** | Total Items\*\* | 4,494 | 400,269 | 123,959 | 32,566 | 225,864 | ***787,152*** |
| Total Items Cost | $103,503 | $10,369,125 | $3,501,937 | $848,248 | $5,776,082 | ***$20,598,895*** |
| Individual Items\*\*\* | 549 | 265,514 | 63,811 | 17,351 | 140,509 | ***487,734*** |
| Individual Items cost | $2,699 | $1,313,623 | $315,657 | $85,872 | $695,988 | ***$2,413,839*** |

*Note: there are no RAAHS data for VIC and ACT.*

*\* Data for NSW and Tasmania have been aggregated to prevent identification due to low number of individual data points available.*

*\*\* Total Items includes items supplied in bulk and individually.*

*\*\*\* Items supplied individually are taken from the no. of instances of the Patient Specific Medicine Supply Fee (PSMSF) paid for each PBS medicine ordered on a RAAHS prescription, and labelled for an individual patient, for supply through an approved RAAHS.*

*The PSMSF is paid in addition to the handling fee paid to eligible pharmacies for the supply of bulk PBS medicines to an approved RAAHS.*

*The PSMSF figures are a subset of the RAAHS figures.*

*From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 the PSMSF was $4.91 and from 1 July 2021 the PSMSF was $4.96.*

*The PSMSF data has been manually extracted from Services Australia Remote Area Aboriginal Health Services Access data base and is not sourced from official channels.*

*This data relates to the date claims are processed and may differ from other data provided by Services Australia, including PBS Expenditure data.*

*PSMSF values maybe affected by rounding*

**Objective 1: Demonstrate transparency and accountability while supplying Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for all Australians**

## Transparency of charges (7CPA, Clause 4.3).

Clause 4.3 of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) committed the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Guild) to ensuring that Approved Pharmacists[[2]](#footnote-3) “make consumers aware, prior to dispensing a Pharmaceutical Benefit, of any Safety Net Recording Fee and Additional Patient Charge to be charged, the fact that the Additional Patient Charge is not Commonwealth initiated, and the total cost to the consumer of that Pharmaceutical Benefit.” During the First Financial Year of the 7CPA, the Guild was required to work with the Department to develop arrangements and processes to support this commitment.

Following discussion at the first meeting of the 7CPA Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee (PSCC) in October 2020, the Guild worked with the Department to develop arrangements and processes for Approved Pharmacists to make the required disclosures and to notify consumers, prior to dispensing, of the price of the Pharmaceutical Benefit.

The draft communication resources and materials developed by the Guild, consisting of an in-pharmacy poster and supporting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), were subsequently discussed at the second PSCC meeting in April 2021, with further consultations between the Department, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), leading to consumer focus testing hosted by CHF and the Guild.

Following endorsement of the Guild’s communication resources by PSCC in July 2021, the resources were published on the Guild’s [Find a Pharmacy](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au/pbs-pricing) website on 1 January 2022, to coincide with annual PBS patient co-payment changes.

The Guild will provide regular updates on progress and uptake of its PBS medicines pricing resources at biannual meetings of the PSCC. Communiques arising from each meeting of the PSCC are published on the [Department’s website](https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/seventh-community-pharmacy-agreement-7cpa-consultation-com).

**Objective 1: Demonstrate transparency and accountability while supplying Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for all Australians**

## Closing the Gap (CTG) PBS Co-Payment Program (7CPA, Clause 10).

The CTG PBS Co-payment program was established in July 2010 to improve access to affordable PBS medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with, or at risk of, chronic disease, and who in their doctor’s opinion would experience setbacks in the prevention or ongoing management of chronic disease if they did not take the prescribed medicine and would be unlikely to adhere to their medicines regimen without assistance through the program.

When obtaining PBS General Schedule medicines at their local pharmacy, eligible general patients who would normally pay the full PBS co‑payment pay the concessional rate and those eligible patients who would normally pay the concessional rate receive their PBS medicines without being required to pay a PBS co‑payment.

The following table presents information on the total number of PBS items and expenditure for the CTG PBS Co-Payment Program across states and territories. This report has been produced using PBS online claims data maintained by the Department of Health and sourced from Services Australia. Data was extracted on 19 May 2022.

Table 1(c): Total number of PBS items and expenditure for CTG PBS Co-Payment Program across states and territories

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pharmacy State/Territory** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **No. of PBS items** | **CTG Benefit Amount** | **No. of PBS items** | **CTG Benefit Amount** | **No. of PBS items** | **CTG Benefit Amount** |
| **ACT** | 30,804 | $248,232 | 32,750 | $321,403 | 36,572 | $306,032 |
| **NSW** | 1,477,827 | $9,355,195 | 1,477,735 | $12,287,239 | 1,678,691 | $10,933,459 |
| **NT** | 101,609 | $787,196 | 106,058 | $952,546 | 117,227 | $912,899 |
| **QLD** | 1,102,805 | $7,220,833 | 1,104,297 | $9,224,925 | 1,349,344 | $9,096,850 |
| **SA** | 245,503 | $1,497,863 | 244,270 | $1,936,499 | 269,215 | $1,692,801 |
| **TAS** | 141,318 | $778,427 | 143,941 | $1,133,784 | 174,459 | $1,011,864 |
| **VIC** | 277,473 | $1,752,301 | 287,334 | $2,381,214 | 331,688 | $2,154,362 |
| **WA** | 398,363 | $2,673,443 | 385,846 | $3,272,666 | 460,586 | $3,196,985 |
| ***Total*** | ***3,775,702*** | ***$24,313,491*** | ***3,782,231*** | ***$31,510,276*** | ***4,417,782*** | ***$29,305,252*** |

**Objective 1: Demonstrate transparency and accountability while supplying Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for all Australians**

## Support the uptake of electronic prescription arrangements (7CPA, Clause 9.4).

Electronic prescribing provides an option for prescribers and their patients to use an electronic prescription as an alternative to a paper prescription. Electronic prescriptions are part of the broader digital health and medicines safety framework and are part of an Australian Government budget measure to make the PBS more efficient. Electronic prescribing aims to provide convenience and choice to patients while improving PBS efficiency, compliance and medicines safety. Electronic prescribing does not fundamentally change existing prescribing and dispensing processes: patients can still choose which pharmacy they attend to fill their prescription; and paper prescriptions are still available.

An Electronic Prescription Fee (EPF) is paid to pharmacies for the dispensing of electronic prescriptions.

Under the 7CPA (clause 9.4), the Commonwealth continues to support the uptake of electronic prescriptions by Approved Pharmacists. Following the first financial year of the 7CPA, the EPF will transition to a direct funding arrangement with Exchange Infrastructure Providers rather than Approved Pharmacists.

This report has been produced using PBS online claims data maintained by the Department of Health and sourced from Services Australia. Data were extracted on 19 May 2022.

Table 1(d): Total expenditure on Electronic Prescription Fees

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost (PBS and RPBS Prescriptions)** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| Electronic Prescription Fee | ***$7,538,873*** | ***$7,339,243*** | ***$9,626,492*** |

# Objective 2: Continue to supply National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) products through community pharmacies

## The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) (7CPA, Clause 6 and 8).

Approved community pharmacy Access Points receive a payment of $1 plus GST for each NDSS product pack supplied to registrants.

Community Service Obligation Distributors (CSODs) receive a payment of $1 plus GST for each NDSS product pack delivered to NDSS Access Points.

Table 2: NDSS Registrants, Community pharmacy Access Points and handling fees paid

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Total No. of NDSS registrants** | 1,405,254 | 1,389,475 | 1,426,245 |
| **Registrants registered on the NDSS Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Reminder Register** | 220,462 | 168,177 | 169,543 |
| **Total No. of approved community pharmacy NDSS Access Points** | 5,604 | 5,638 | 5,650 |
| **Total Access Point Fees Paid** | $3,286,864 | $3,207,656 | $3,370,193 |

# Objective 3: Support professional initiatives for pharmacists to better fulfil their current scope of practice.

## Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Professional Practice Standards (PPS), Practice Guidelines, and Code of Ethics (CoE) (7CPA, Clause 14).

Clause 14.2 of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) commits the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Department of Health (Department) to working together in relation to the further development of the PSA Code of Ethics that underpins pharmacist practice in Australia.

Following review of the PSA’s proposed update of the PSA Code of Ethics, presented to the Department in late 2021, the Department has chosen not to pursue this update at this time.

Clause 14.6 of the 7CPA commits the PSA to continue to maintain the Professional Practice Standards (PPS) and relevant clinical guidelines with the aim of providing pharmacists with practice information to support the safe and quality use of medicines.

In April 2022, the Department entered into a contract with PSA to update the PPS. This update is expected to be completed by 30 June 2023.

As part of this work, the PSA will also update some clinical guidelines, including those associated with Continuous Dispensing arrangements.

**Objective 3: Support professional initiatives for pharmacists to better fulfil their current scope of practice**.

## Accreditation of pharmacists for undertaking medication reviews

Home Medicines Reviews (HMR) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMR) are medication management services initiated and supported by the Australian Government, aimed at supporting the quality use of medicines and assisting in minimising adverse medicine events by helping people understand and manage their medicines. Medication reviews are initiated by a medical practitioner and conducted by an accredited pharmacist. The HMR involves an accredited pharmacist making a home visit to a patient’s home to provide a medication review service, while the RMMR service is provided to an eligible patient residing in an eligible Residential Care Facility. In both HMR and RMMR, after the initial interview, the accredited pharmacist provides an HMR or RMMR report respectively to the initiating medical practitioner for consideration of issues raised.

From 21 April 2020, if clinically indicated, up to two follow-up services may be conducted to resolve medication-related problems identified at the initial interview.

Table 3(b): Number of accredited registered pharmacists eligible to provide HMR and RMMR (as at 13 May 2022)\*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Number** | **Percentage of Registered Pharmacists** |
| **Accredited registered pharmacists**  | 1977 | 5.4% |
| **Total registered pharmacists\*\*** *(as of 31 March 2022)* | **36,283** |  |

*\* Information sourced from data published by* [*The Society of Hospital Pharmacy of Australia (SHPA)*](https://shpa.org.au/publicassets/94e7f31b-96b4-ec11-9100-00505696223b/Find-an-accredited-pharmacist---April-2022.pdf)*,* [*Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP)*](https://aacp.com.au/find-a-pharmacist/) *and* [*Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA)*](https://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/about/statistics.aspx)*.*

*\*\* Includes pharmacists on the short-term pandemic response sub-register (this register will close on 22 September 2022).*

*Note: An accredited pharmacist can provide both HMR and RMMR services.*

# Objective 4: Ensure all Australians have access to pharmacy services and programs that support the safe and quality use of medicines

The 7CPA provides funding for professional pharmacy programs and services over the life of the Agreement. These programs include continuation and revision of existing pharmacy programs and services from the 6CPA and include:

* **Medication Adherence Programs**: Dose Administration Aids (DAA) and Staged Supply
* **Medication Management Programs:** MedsCheck, Diabetes MedsCheck, Home Medicines Review (HMR), Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) and Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) in Residential Aged Care Facilities
* **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs:** Indigenous Dose Administration Aids (IDAA) Program and Indigenous Health Services Pharmacy Support (IHSPS) Program

Table 4-1: Total number and expenditure for Community Pharmacy Programs and Services

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program or Service** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Total Services** | **Expenditure** | **Total Services** | **Expenditure** | **Total Services** | **Expenditure** |
| **Dose Administration Aids**  | 7,700,422 | $47,626,373.32 | 8,051,800 | $49,805,646.49 | 7,932,725 | $49,136,220.04 |
| **Indigenous Dose Administration Aids\*** | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 635,108 | $7,516,556.40 |
| **Staged Supply** | 91,133 | $4,399,414.84 | 93,227 | $4,436,152.44 | 95,958 | $4,598,978.72 |
| **HMR\*\*** | 60,991 | $12,449,490.79 | 58,429 | $11,409,223.45 | 60,483 | $11,597,387.77 |
| **RMMR\*\*** | 62,905 | $6,567,891.25 | 66,364 | $6,621,142.98 | 77,574 | $7,798,830.17 |
| **MedsCheck** | 197,035 | $13,108,738.55 | 205,517 | $13,673,064.41 | 203,819 | $13,560,078.07 |
| **Diabetes MedsCheck** | 67,955 | $6,781,229.45 | 68,581 | $6,843,812.53 | 73,837 | $7,368,194.23 |
| **Quality Use of Medicines in Residential Aged Care Facilities** | 2848a | $5,541,749.98 | 2865a | $5,542,684.52 | 2864a | $5,942,352.86 |

\* *The Indigenous Dose Administration Aids program commenced on 1 July 2021,*

*\*\* Total services for HMR and RMMR programs are inclusive of services paid for first and second follow up,*

*a – this item reports the average number of participating service providers for this service in any one month during the reporting period. Please note that it does not represent the number of services provided.*

*Information sourced from* [*Community Pharmacy Programs data*](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/pharmacy-programs-data) *published by the Department of Health.*

**Indigenous Health Services Pharmacy Support (IHSPS) Program**

The IHSPS Program was created by merging the Quality Use of Medicines Maximised for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People (QUMAX) and S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance programs, which continued from the 6CPA during the first year of the 7CPA (until 30 June 2021).

The IHSPS Program commenced in July 2021. Table 4-2 below shows the reduction in expenditure during the changeover from QUMAX and S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance programs to the IHSPS program.

Table 4-2: Number of participating service providers and expenditure recorded for IHSPS Program, QUMAX and
S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Average No. of active providers** | **Expenditure** | **Average No. of active providers** | **Expenditure** | **Average No. of active providers** | **Expenditure** |
| **QUMAX**  |  84 | $1,113,235.51 |  84 | $1,303,157.04 | N/A | $60,414.74 |
| **S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance** | 25 | $1,336,000.00 | 25 | $501,375.00 | N/A | $399,000.00 |
| **IHSPS Program** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 225 | $1,958,320.75 |

*Information sourced from* [*Rural support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander pharmacy programs data*](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/rural-support-and-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-pharmacy-programs-data) *published by the Department of Health.*

# Objective 5: Support access to medicines and pharmacy services for people in regional, rural and remote areas

Rural Support Programs are targeted programs and services to support access to PBS medicines and pharmacy services for people living in regional, rural and remote regions of Australia. Services supported under the 7CPA include:

* Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance
* Rural Continuing Professional Education Allowance
* Emergency Locum Service
* Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacists
* Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies- Extension Program
* Rural Intern Training Allowance
* Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme
* Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme
* Rural Pharmacy Liaison Officer Program
* Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance Program and Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools Scheme

Table 5 (below) provides information on the number of participants and the total expenditure for each of the above programs.

Note that service providers differ based on specific programs and include pharmacists, pharmacy educators, universities and pharmacy interns, in addition to rural and remote hospital and community pharmacies.

Table 5: Number of participating service providers and expenditure recorded for regional, rural and remote pharmacy services

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **1 July – 31 December 2020** | **1 January – 30 June 2021** | **1 July – 31 December 2021** |
| **Item**  | **Expenditure** | **Item**  | **Expenditure** | **Item** | **Expenditure** |
| **Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA)\*** | 803a | $8,067,368.08 |  1006a | $9,347,082.50 | 1049a | $9,831,037.99 |
| **Rural Continuing Professional Education Allowance (CPE)** | 19b | $10,416.27 | 90b | $65,468.12 | 48b | $42,715.34 |
| **Emergency Locum Service (ELS)** | 100c | $144,617.33 | 183c | $229,393.42 | 36§c | $39,070.81 |
| **Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies (IIARP)** | 32d | $111,250.00 | 38d | $186,666.67 | 36d | $111,666.67 |
| **Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies - Extension Program (IIRP-EP)** | 4d | $35,000.00 | 5d | $55,000.00 | 5d | $45,000.00 |
| **Rural Intern Incentive Allowance (RITA)** | 41b | $19,597.11 | 16b | $8,890.94 | 34b | $19,389.61 |
| **Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (RPSS)** | 89d | $443,000.00 | 71d | $372,000.00 | 66d  | $324,500.00 |
| **Rural Mentor Scheme (RMS)** | 93d | $30,000.00 | 83d | $4,875.00 | 73d | $21,750.00 |
| **Rural Pharmacy Liaison Officer (RPLO)** | 8d | $636,666.67 | 9d | $234,000.00 | 9d | $403,500.00 |
| **Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance (RPSPA)** | 15e | $346,644.02 | 16e | $246,360.37 | 16e | $278,587.99 |
| **Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools Scheme (ASPSS)** | 15e | $204,138.95 | 16e | $146,875.00 | 16e | $205,625.00 |

*The items reported are; a-Average number of active service providers for RPMA, b- No. of approved claims, c- No. of locum placements, d- Average no. of active participants, e-Average no. of participating universities. This information was sourced from* [*Rural support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander pharmacy programs data*](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/rural-support-and-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-pharmacy-programs-data) *published by the Department of Health.*

*\*From 1 January 2021, RPMA eligibility transitioned from use of the Pharmacy Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA) to the* [*Modified Monash Model (MMM)*](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm) *rural classification system.*

*§ Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of emergency locum placements were low due to COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns in place during this period.*

1. ***“s90 Pharmacies”*** are those pharmacies operated by a pharmacist approved under section 90 of the *National Health Act 1953* to dispense pharmaceutical benefits from particular pharmacy premises. Other suppliers include approved doctors (usually practising in isolated areas) and approved hospitals. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. An ***“approved pharmacist”*** means a person approved under section 90 of the *National Health Act 1953* to dispense pharmaceutical benefits from particular pharmacy premises. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)