



# Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure

1 September 2025

## Reflecting on Year 1

Since 1 July 2024, under the Aged Care On-site Pharmacists Measure, funding has been available for community pharmacies and aged care providers to employ aged care on-site pharmacists in residential aged care homes. The [Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#) identified medication management and safety in residential aged care homes as an essential area for improvement. This measure responds to the [final report](#) recommendations.

## Promising momentum: What we achieved

- In the first year over 12% of all eligible residential aged care homes across Australia have taken up an on-site pharmacist. Uptake has been steadily increasing since commencement.
- Australia Capital Territory has the highest percentage of eligible residential aged care homes participating with over 35% participation in the ACT.
- New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have all seen strong uptake with approximately 15% of eligible residential aged care homes within these state/territories taking up an on-site pharmacist under the Measure.
- Based on the total number of residential aged care homes participating within each state, participation is highest in New South Wales.
- The Measure funds employment of one full time equivalent pharmacist per 250 residential aged care home beds, banded into 50 bed increments. This results in funding for a pharmacist for at least one full day every week in every aged care home.
- Participation is similar across different size residential aged care homes with homes with 1-50, 51-100, 101-150, and 151-200 beds seeing between 10 and 20% participation.
- When looking at residential aged care home participation by [Modified Monash \(MM\) Category](#) location, participation is highest for residential aged care homes located in MM 1 and 3 with approximately 15% participation each.
  - This is closely followed with between 7-10% participation in MM 2, 4, 5, and 6.
- To participate in the Measure an aged care home must have an [electronic National Residential Medication Chart \(eNRMC\)](#) in place or commit to introducing an eNRMC within 12 months.
- Between the 2022–23 and 2023–24 financial years, the Department provided \$31 million in grant funding (separate to the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure funding) to support the adoption of eNRMC systems across residential aged care homes. This funding reached approximately 80% of eligible residential aged care homes. As of

30 June 2025, 79% of funded residential aged care homes fulfilled their grant obligations and successfully implemented an eNRM system—representing 66% of all residential aged care homes nationwide. The Department continues to manage the remaining grant agreements and anticipates that all will be completed by the end of the 2025–26 financial year.

- Under the Measure, funding for the aged care on-site pharmacist's salary is paid to a community pharmacy or to the residential aged care home.
- For a residential aged care home to receive funding it must be unsuccessful in sourcing an aged care on-site pharmacist from a community pharmacy. This may be because:
  - community pharmacies can't or choose not to participate; or
  - the residential aged care home and community pharmacy can't come to a suitable agreement.
- In the first year approximately 85% of participating residential aged care homes have engaged an aged care on-site pharmacist through a community pharmacy, with the remainder directly engaged by the residential aged care home. The Measure requirement to be unsuccessful in sourcing a pharmacist from a community pharmacy likely influences this split of funding.
- As of May 2025, all Primary Health Networks across Australia have commenced their role in the Measure to assist residential aged care homes with engaging on-site pharmacists, if required. We will see the role of Primary Health Networks take effect throughout the second year of the Measure.