



Improving Access to Medicines – Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement

The Australian Government has negotiated the new Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia – providing \$18.3 billion for pharmacy dispensing and programs over five years.

This agreement will ensure Australians will continue to have access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)-subsidised medicines.

Why is this important?

The 7CPA will continue to support improved affordability of, and increased access to, PBS medicines and effective pharmacy services.

During the first year of the 7CPA, there is a particular focus on reforming community pharmacy programs to provide improved medication management for older Australians, wherever they live, such as reviewing use of psychotropic medicines and delivering follow-up pharmacy services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have better access to affordable PBS medicines and medication management by registering for the Closing the Gap PBS co-payment wherever they live and regardless of their chronic disease status. People who live in rural and remote areas will have greater access to PBS medicines and medication review services.

In addition, a new scholarship program will enable the pharmacy workforce to exchange skills and knowledge in international best practice.

Who will benefit?

Thanks to the 7CPA, Australians will continue to have access to more than 200 million subsidised PBS prescriptions each year through their pharmacy of choice. Community pharmacies will have additional remuneration and predictable funding for the next five years. In addition, the optional \$1 discount on PBS patient co-payments will continue to provide patients with access to cheaper medicines.

How much will this cost?

The Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement will provide \$18.3 billion from 2020–21 to 2024–25.