



AGED CARE ONSITE PHARMACIST (ACOP) PROGRAM

Make a difference to the lives of older people living in aged care



Seeking pharmacists to provide medication expertise in aged care homes

The **Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist Program** is an Australian Government initiative, designed to support residential aged care homes in engaging a pharmacist to work onsite as a valued member of their team. Pharmacies can participate by providing a credentialed pharmacist to give expert support and advice in medication management and pharmacotherapy to improve safety and health outcomes for residents and to build confidence with families and carers. Residential aged care homes can also engage an ACOP directly if a pharmacy is unable to.

BENEFITS FOR PHARMACIES



- Expand your services
- Get involved from one to five days a week per facility (days are based on facility bed numbers)
- Receive a \$619.84 payment for each full day that a pharmacist works onsite (to cover salary and on-costs)

BENEFITS FOR PHARMACISTS



- Expand your scope of practice and be recognised as an expert in the field of aged care medication management, pharmacotherapy and quality use of medicines
- Step outside your everyday and expand your clinical and communication skills
- Be part of a multi-disciplinary team working with GPs, nurses, facility staff and other health professionals
- Make a real difference to the lives of older people, by helping them to stay as well as and for as long as possible
- Part time or full time work available depending on the bed numbers at the aged care home

PHARMACIST REQUIREMENTS

To participate, on-site pharmacists must have an existing Medication Management Review credential and complete an Australian Pharmacy Council accredited training program or receive recognition of prior learning by **30 June 2026**. For more, see:

<https://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/education-provider/accreditation/pharmacist-education-programs/accredited-pharmacist-education-programs/>

HOW THE FUNDING WORKS

There are two tiers of funding, both administered by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator. For more, see: [The Aged Care On-site Pharmacist \(ACOP\) Measure - Pharmacy Programs Administrator](#)

An attempt must initially be made by the residential aged care home to access an onsite aged care pharmacist through a community pharmacy of its choice (Tier 1). If this is unsuccessful, the residential aged care home will then be eligible to access funds directly to engage an onsite pharmacist (Tier 2).

- **Tier 1** is available to Section 90 community pharmacies, who can claim and receive payments. For more see: [ACOP Measure Tier 1 webpage](#).
- **Tier 2** is for residential aged care providers. For more see: [ACOP Measure Tier 2 webpage](#).

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-on-site-pharmacist>



Read:

[Example position description](#)



ACOP example activities:

<https://www.ppaonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Example-ACOP-activities.docx>



“Initially I was quite hesitant because of the unknowns, but I am thoroughly enjoying the diversity of the onsite role. I’m now working at 2 different aged care homes, each with different needs and requirements, so makes my days very interesting.”

Toni Riley,
credentialed pharmacist,
Bendigo region

READY FOR A REWARDING ROLE?

Contact Murray PHN Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist Program Consultant, Liz Welch by emailing: agedcare@murrayphn.org.au or calling 02 6041 0012.

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 program responds to the final report recommendations, in particular recommendation 38. The ACOP program is an alternative best-practice model of care to the medication management and quality use of medicines (RMMR/QUM) programs. If a residential aged care home engages an aged care onsite credentialed pharmacist, it is unable to participate in the RMMR and QUM programs. Information current as at 1 July 2025