

AGED CARE ON-SITE 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 On-site Pharmacist Program is an Australian Government initiative, designed to support residential aged care homes (RACHs) to engage a pharmacist to work on-site as a valued member of their team.

Pharmacies can participate by providing an eligible pharmacist to give expert support and advice in medication management and pharmacotherapy to improve safety and health outcomes for residents and build confidence with families and carers.

Residential aged care homes can also engage an ACOP directly if they are unsuccessful in sourcing an ACOP through a community pharmacy of their choice.



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 on-site 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 multidisciplinary 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 possible for as long as possible
- Part-time or full-time work available depending on the bed numbers at the RACH

PHARMACIST REQUIREMENTS

To participate, on-site pharmacists must either:

- have completed an Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accredited aged care on-site pharmacist training program; or
- have an existing Medication Management Review (MMR) credential and have completed either;
 - an APC-accredited aged care on-site pharmacist training program; or
 - an APC-accredited aged care on-site pharmacist recognition of prior learning process

From 1 July 2026, all pharmacists participating in the measure must have completed an **APC accredited aged care on-site pharmacist training program**.

HOW THE FUNDING WORKS

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

Residential aged care homes must first attempt to access an on-site aged care pharmacist through a community pharmacy of their choice. If unsuccessful, the residential aged care home (RACH) can access funds directly to engage an on-site pharmacist under Tier 2.

- **Tier 1:** Section 90 community pharmacies can claim payments to engage an ACOP to work at a particular residential aged care home. See **Aged Care On-site Pharmacist (ACOP) Measure Tier 1 - Community Pharmacy claims and receives payments**
- **Tier 2:** RACHs can claim payments to engage an ACOP to work at the home if they are unsuccessful in sourcing an eligible pharmacist through the community pharmacy of their choice. See **Aged Care On-site Pharmacist (ACOP) Measure Tier 2 – RACH claims and receives payments**

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



**Aged care on-site
pharmacist webpage**



**Example position
description**



**ACOP
example activities**

CONTACT GIPPSLAND PHN

For more information or support, email agedcare@gphn.org.au or call **03 5175 5444**.

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 is participating in the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure, it cannot also participate in the Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) or Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) programs. Information current as at 1 July 2025.