

CAREER FACT SHEET

Pharmacists

Snapshot

Pharmacists ensure safe and quality use of medicines, and optimise health outcomes by contributing to selecting, prescribing, monitoring and evaluating medicine therapy, and researching, testing and developing pharmaceuticals and medical products

How many are employed in this occupation?	42,500
What are the average weekly earnings for full time workers?	\$1,980
How does unemployment compare with other occupations?	Average
What are the job prospects for this occupation?	Medium
What will be the likely future employment growth for the next five years?	Strong Growth

Main employing industries

Retail Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Manufacturing

Tasks

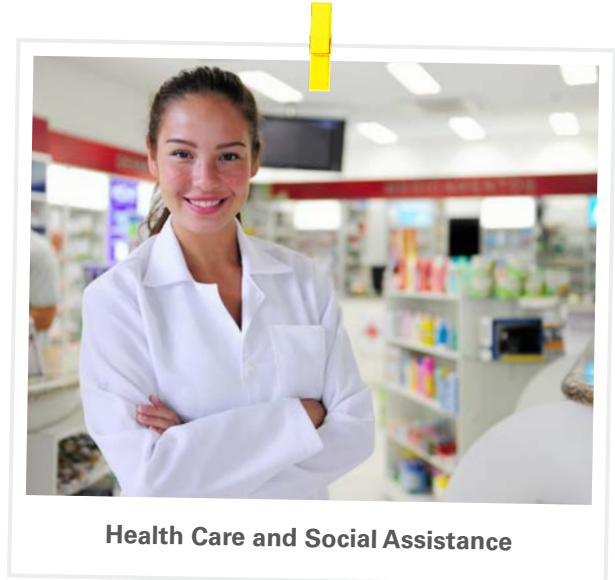
This occupation may include associated occupations with varying tasks.

- receiving prescriptions, checking patients' medicine histories, and ensuring optimal dosage and methods of administration and drug compatibility before dispensing
- preparing or supervising the preparation and labelling of liquid medicines, ointments, powders, tablets and other medications to fill prescriptions
- advising prescribers on drug incompatibility and contra-indications
- reviewing and monitoring the medicine therapy of individual patients, and assessing the effectiveness of the total medicine therapy
- maintaining prescription files and recording issue of narcotics, poisons and habit-forming drugs
- storing and preserving vaccines, serums and other drugs subject to deterioration
- supplying non-prescription medicines, and diagnostic and therapeutic aids
- supervising and coordinating the work of pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns and pharmacy sales assistants
- conducting research to develop and improve pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and related chemical products
- conferring with chemists, engineering professionals and other professionals about manufacturing techniques and ingredients
- testing and analysing drugs to determine their identity, purity and strength in relation to specified standards
- developing standards for drugs used in pharmaceuticals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Health Care and Social Assistance

Are you interested in helping people improve their health? Do you enjoy caring for others? Perhaps you would like to assist people experiencing a disability, or are keen to get involved in the wellness industry. If you are intrigued by these possibilities, a job in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector may be for you. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry encompasses a diversity of occupations, ranging from fields such as dental hygiene, optometry, pharmacy, disability services, mental health and aged-care, to fitness training, sports science, lifestyle coaching and nutrition. The Health Training Package offers over 75 Vocational and Training (VET) qualifications, so if you're interested in health you'll probably find an occupation and qualification to suit you! Don't forget it's possible to begin your Health Care and Social Assistance career by training for VET qualifications to start with before possibly working your way up to a University Degree. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector has experienced strong growth in the last ten years, making it one of Australia's largest employers and the growth is forecast to continue, so jobs in this industry are expected to be plentiful.



Possible job pathways

- Anaesthetists
- Ambulance Officers and Paramedics
- Chiropractors and Osteopaths
- Complementary Health Therapists
- Dental Assistants
- Dental Practitioners
- Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists
- Dieticians
- Generalist Medical Practitioners
- Health Information Managers
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Internal Medicine Specialists
- Massage Therapists
- Medical Imaging Professionals
- Medical Laboratory Scientists
- Medical Technicians
- Midwives
- Nurses (Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses)
- Nursing Managers
- Optometrists and Orthoptists
- Other Medical Practitioners
- Podiatrists
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Practice Managers
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Nurse Educators and Researchers
- Registered Nurses
- Speech Professionals and Audiologists
- Photographic Developers and Printers
- Aged and Disabled Carers
- Counsellors
- Diversional Therapists
- Health and Welfare Services Managers
- Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
- Occupational Therapists
- Social Workers
- Special Care Workers
- Welfare Support Workers
- Welfare, Recreation and Community Arts Workers

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