

UTS Community Pharmacy Barometer 2025 - Media Release March 2026

Australia's community pharmacists are reporting their highest level of confidence on record, with the 2025 UTS Community Pharmacy Barometer™ pointing to expanded scope of practice as a key driver of renewed optimism.

The 2025 Barometer™ shows that confidence in the profession has continued to strengthen following the sharp decline recorded after the announcement of the 60-day dispensing policy in 2023. The UTS Pharmacy Barometer™ score reached 155.1 out of 200 (where 100 represents neutral confidence), marking the highest level recorded since the Barometer commenced 15 years ago.

“Confidence in community pharmacy has not only recovered, but is now at its strongest level ever observed, reflecting the profession’s growing confidence in expanded clinical roles and services,” said Professor Kylie Williams, Head of Pharmacy at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). “This suggests the profession has adapted to recent policy disruption and is increasingly optimistic about its future value.”

Now in its 15th wave, the UTS Community Pharmacy Barometer™ surveyed 360 community pharmacists nationally in September–October 2025 and examined sentiment following the first year of the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) and the continued expansion of pharmacists’ scope of practice.

Emeritus Professor Charlie Benrimoj said the results indicate long-term structural resilience in the sector rather than short-term recovery. “The upward trend in confidence reflects a structural shift in community pharmacy,” he said. “Expanded clinical services are increasingly being seen as core business and as essential to long-term sustainability, alongside economic satisfaction with the 8CPA.”

Key findings from the 2025 Barometer™ include:

- **Highest confidence on record:** The UTS Pharmacy Barometer™ score increased to 155.1, up from 148.3 in 2024, representing the strongest level of confidence observed to date.
- **Improved expectations of pharmacy value:** Almost two-thirds (64%) of pharmacy decision-makers expect the value of their pharmacy to increase over the next year, the highest proportion recorded across all Barometer™ waves.
- **Views on the 8CPA:** Pharmacy owners reported higher levels of economic satisfaction with the 8CPA than employed pharmacists, indicating differing experiences across the workforce.
- **Strong support for expanded scope of practice:** Most pharmacists reported delivering a broad range of extended services, particularly for common acute conditions such as urinary tract infections, allergic rhinitis and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease.
- **Need for structural support:** While professional satisfaction with expanded roles is high, pharmacists identified funding, training, and infrastructure as critical to sustaining service delivery.
- **Low public awareness:** More than three-quarters of pharmacists believe patients are only partially aware of the services community pharmacies now offer, highlighting the need for stronger public communication.
- **Recognition of prescribing roles:** Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents believe pharmacists with prescribing responsibilities should receive higher remuneration, reflecting the increased clinical accountability associated with expanded scope roles.

Overall, the 2025 Barometer™ findings suggest that community pharmacy confidence is being reshaped by pharmacists practising to an expanded scope and embedding clinical services as part of routine care.

“The message from the profession is clear,” Professor Williams said. “Pharmacists are willing and ready to do more, but expanded roles must be supported by appropriate training, funding, workforce planning and remuneration if these reforms are to succeed.”

The report will be available on the [UTS Barometer](#) site, along with all previous Barometer reports. For further information contact Prof K. Williams at kylie.williams@uts.edu.au.