

## Interview of an Australian Community Pharmacist

Mr. Sridhar Bhat Rph, is currently working as a Community Pharmacist in Australia for past 11 years. He is registered in Western Australia. He has visited India recently. A brief Interview with him is presented below to give an idea about profession and role community pharmacist in patient care in Australia.

Q: What are the general responsibilities of a community pharmacist in Australia?

A: Pharmacists are very much responsible for provision of primary health care, like respiratory care, Gastro intestinal care, skin disorders, Nicotine replacement therapy, pain management in minor had ache, migraine, body ache contraceptive advice and on baby care, Weight Management.

In addition, pharmacists are legal custodians of prescription only medicines whose dispensing is major activity. Dispensing as per the prescriptions after checking interactions in a prescription, patient medication history, distributing consumer information leaflets, counseling patients based on enquiry about disease, drug and lifestyle.

Q: What educational qualifications and curriculum is required to become a community pharmacist in Australia ?

A: Bachelor in Pharmacy 5years after 10 +2; They bifurcate as community pharmacist or hospital pharmacist.

Masters of Pharmacy 3 years after Bachelor of Pharmacy

Ph D-----after Masters in Pharmacy;

A curriculum focuses on clinical and community pharmacy aspects along with social pharmacy.

Q: What is the range of annual salary for Community Pharmacist?

A: On average in Australia Community Pharmacists earns 60000 to 80000 Australian Dollars

Q: Describe the scheme of health subsidy in Australia?

A: Health care is the state responsibility and expenditure on spending on health care is highly subsidized by the government. For example General patients need to pay 31 AUD and the Government reimburses rest of it. Where as pensioners need to pay 5AUD and rest of the treatments including cost of the medicine is paid by the Australian Government



Q: How do you describe the pharmaceutical products for dispensing in Australia?

A: There is a national body, which makes the approval for drugs to be reimbursed under Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme. All essential and life saving drugs, which are single ingredients, are included. There are approximately 1200 prescription only products and 700 over the counter products.

Q: What is scheme of remuneration for the community pharmacy practice?

A: 5 AUD to be credited as Prescription fee, 6.5 AUD for dispensing Extemporeus Preparations; 10% margin on sales of medicines up to a limit of 100/250 AUD as flat fee of 25 AUD.

Q: Who and How Regulation of Pharmacy profession is envisaged?

A: Jointly Regulated by Pharmacy council of Australia and Guild of Pharmacy owners. In case found lapse of services by pharmacist, all pharmacists to cover the damages all the pharmacist needs to have indemnity insurance.

Q: What are the facilities available for a pharmacist to update the practicing knowledge?

A: The professional knowledge continuously changes and the update of knowledge is essential for providing quality services. Medicine and pharmacy experts organize didactic lectures every month. Australian Pharmacy Magazines come with latest topics and modules of professional education, which convey recent relevance. Pharmacists registered are supposed earn credits by participating in online credit examinations. A pharmacist must and should appear in Gold questionnaire examination once in year. A minimum score of 12 is mandatory to get license to continue the professional practice.