

## Queensland GP Alliance



27 April 2023

The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
GPO Box 48  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Email: [health@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

**Subject: Pharmacist administration of vaccinations in general practice**

Dear Minister D'Ath

Pharmacists working in general practice currently administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to limited populations under an emergency order (refer [version EO-2022-CV19-3](#)). This valuable work occurs within GP-led multidisciplinary teams, however, the emergency order expires on 29 April 2023.

After this date, pharmacists working in general practice will be prohibited from delivering care equivalent to that of pharmacists in community pharmacy and hospital settings, despite holding the same qualifications and training. We therefore call on Queensland Health to urgently amend relevant legislation to ensure these pharmacists can continue this vital health care for Queensland patients.

Pharmacists are valued members of GP-led multidisciplinary teams, collaborating to deliver holistic patient-centred care. They are skilled health professionals working in a highly regulated workplace but are legislatively prevented from offering the same vaccines as their community- and hospital-based colleagues. For example:

- A pharmacist working in a general practice can only administer influenza vaccines to children 5 years and over, whereas pharmacists in other settings can administer influenza vaccines to children 6 months and over.
- Pharmacists in other settings can administer vaccines to prevent multiple diseases including measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, however, they cannot if they work within a general practice.

The robust clinical governance and accreditation standards of general practices in Queensland and the close collaboration between GPs and pharmacists working in general practice is also a safer setting for pharmacists to use their full training in vaccine administration. This occurs in many other



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jurisdictions including South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia where respective state legislation enables such pharmacists to deliver a wide range of vaccination services.

As such, we reiterate our strong support for pharmacists working within multidisciplinary general practice teams and for these arrangements to be made permanent via legislative amendment. This will enhance vaccine access and health care for all Queensland patients.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these concerns with you further.

Yours sincerely,

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Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine

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Rural Doctors Association of Queensland

Dr Maria Boulton  
Australian Medical Association Queensland

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