



PBS Changes Explainer

This table outlines the PBS co-payment and Safety Net threshold changes. It can be used by pharmacists as an aid to provide general advice to patients.

	From 1 July 2022 <i>PBS Safety Net thresholds were lowered for concessional patients, to equivalent of 12 fully priced scripts.</i>	From 1 January 2023 <i>The cost of general prescriptions under the PBS falls for first time in 75-year history.</i>	From 1 January 2024 <i>Co-payment and Safety Net threshold amounts increase in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>	From 1 January 2025 <i>General and Concessional Co-payment amounts are unchanged due to the indexation freeze.</i> <i>General Safety Net threshold amount increased in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>	From 1 January 2026 <i>General co-payment reduced.</i> <i>Concessional Co-payment amounts are unchanged due to the indexation freeze.</i> <i>General Safety Net threshold amount increased in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>
	Maximum cost per prescription	Maximum cost per prescription	Maximum cost per prescription	Maximum cost per prescription	Maximum cost per prescription
General patients	\$42.50 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold lowered for general patients to \$1,457.10 – \$85 reduction or equivalent to approximately two fully priced scripts.</i>	\$30.00 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increased to \$1,563.50 in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>	\$31.60 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increased to \$1,647.90 in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>	\$31.60 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increases to \$1,694.00 in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>	\$25.00 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increases to \$1,748.20 in line with Consumer Price Index.</i>
Concessional patients	\$6.80 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold lowered for concessional patients to \$244.80 – \$81.60 reduction or equivalent to 12 fully priced scripts.</i>	\$7.30 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increased to \$262.80 in line with indexation of concessional co-payment.</i>	\$7.70 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold increased to \$277.20 in line with indexation of concessional co-payment.</i>	\$7.70 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold remains at \$277.20 in line with freeze on indexation of concessional co-payment</i>	\$7.70 <i>PBS Safety Net threshold remains at \$277.20 in line with freeze on indexation of concessional co-payment</i>



Closing the Gap program (general patients)	\$6.80 (general patients)	\$7.30 <i>General Closing the Gap program patients will pay the concessional rate of \$7.30 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the pre-1 January 2023 amount of \$42.50, rather than at the reduced amount of \$30.00.</i>	\$7.70 <i>General Closing the Gap program patients pay the concessional rate of \$7.70 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the amount of \$42.50.</i>	\$7.70 <i>General Closing the Gap program patients pay the concessional rate of \$7.70 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the amount of \$42.50.</i>	\$7.70 <i>General Closing the Gap program patients pay the concessional rate of \$7.70 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the amount of \$42.50.</i>
Closing the Gap program (concessional patients)	\$0 (concessional patients)	\$0 (concessional patients)	\$0 (concessional patients)	\$0 (concessional patients)	\$0 (concessional patients)
Maximum Allowable Discount (\$1 Discount)	\$1.00 <i>(General and Concessional patients) Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.</i>	\$1.00 <i>(General and Concessional patients) Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.</i>	\$1.00 <i>(General and Concessional patients) Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.</i>	<i>General: 10 cents Concessional: 80 cents</i> <i>Maximum allowable \$1 discount decreased by amount of indexation (in dollars) that would have applied to the relevant patient co-payment if there were no freeze on indexation to the general and/or concessional co-payment.</i>	<i>General: \$0.00 Concessional: 60 cents^(a)</i> <i>Maximum allowable discount decreases by amount of indexation (in dollars) that would normally have applied to the relevant patient co-payment.</i> <i>In 2026 the general patient maximum allowable discount is reduced to nil.</i>

(a) Concessional patient co-payment will not be indexed and remain at \$7.70 from 1 January 2025 for five calendar years from 2025 to 2029 in accordance with s99G(1B) of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act). This amount would have increased by \$0.20 to \$7.90 from 1 January 2026 with the indexation that would have normally applied to the concessional patient co-payment. In accordance with sections 99GC and 99GD of the Act, the pre-existing allowable \$0.80 discount will decrease by the amount of indexation (\$0.20) that would have applied to the concessional co-payment of \$7.70. Concessional patients will be eligible for a discount of up to \$0.60 off the concessional patient co-payment of \$7.70 in 2026.