



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

MEDIA RELEASE

PHARMACY PLAN TO ALLOW ELECTORATE WOMEN EASIER ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS AND TREATMENTS

NSW will be the first state in Australia to allow pharmacists to renew prescriptions for the contraceptive pill as part of a fast-tracked plan to make it easier for Castle Hill women to access important medications and treatments.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP has announced that under a re-elected NSW Liberal and Nationals Government it will be more convenient and cheaper for women to visit their pharmacist, with consultations related to the contraceptive pill and UTI treatments to be free for a 12 month trial period.

“The Liberals and Nationals’ pharmacy plan will transform health care, with local women able to beat the queues at the GP and instead walk into their local pharmacy to get the care they need, when they need it,” Mr Williams said. “We are making it easier and quicker for the community to access prescription medications and treatments that typically cannot wait for the amount of time it currently takes to see a GP.”

“NSW is not going to sit back and wait for changes to be made at a federal level to help our GPs – we are getting on with the job and ensuring our communities get the access to care that they need now.”

Under our pharmacy plan, the NSW Liberal and Nationals will:

- Cover the cost of the patient consultation fee for the treatment of UTI and the contraceptive pill;
- Commence the prescribing trial for the treatment of UTIs on 1 April 2023; and
- Accelerate the commencement of the trial for the renewal of oral contraceptive pill prescriptions to 1 July 2023 and allow pharmacists to extend an original script issued by a GP or nurse practitioner in the past 2 years.

Mr Williams said the Australian-first pharmacy plan would extend the scope of what many pharmacists can already prescribe, enhancing their role in providing direct care to community.

“We all know and appreciate the vital role our community pharmacists play in providing healthcare, and they will now be in a position to help ease the pressure on other areas of the health system, including primary care providers and hospitals,” Mr Williams said.

“This reform will ease the pressure on primary care and ensure locals are able to access the care they need, when they need it.”



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NSW Health will work with participating pharmacists who will be required to undertake additional training for these specific conditions to ensure safe prescribing practices.

The NSW Government has partnered with the University of Newcastle to design and implement the clinical trial. Data gathered from the clinical trial will be used to inform any future changes to the role of pharmacists in the healthcare system.

Under the NSW Government's pharmacy reforms, residents of NSW have also been able to access additional vaccinations from pharmacists since November 2022.

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