



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

SUBMISSION

Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023

Comments by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia to Jobs and Skills Australia

Due: 11 April 2023

National Secretariat

Level 2, 15 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600
PO Box 310, Fyshwick ACT 2609
P: +61 2 6270 1888 • F: +61 2 6270 1800 • E: guild.nat@guild.org.au
www.guild.org.au



Ref: SPxxxx-x-xxx

INTRODUCTION

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the 'Guild') welcomes the opportunity to review and provide comments to the *Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023*. Our comments are focused on the application of the proposed amendments to the community pharmacy sector.

ABOUT THE GUILD

The Guild is the national employer industry association representing owners of community pharmacies - which are small and medium businesses in cities, regional and remote areas across Australia. Community pharmacies are frontline health services and provide an ever-expanding range of professional health services to their local community.

Critical for the provision of these health services by the owners of Australia's 6,000 community pharmacies is a regulatory environment that supports the growth, success, and sustainability of their businesses.

Many Guild members employ 15 or fewer employees in a pharmacy. These small community businesses account for the direct employment of more than 70,000 full time, part time and casual employees in cities and towns Australia wide.

As a federally registered industrial organisation, the Guild develops workplace and business policy and shapes public debate on major workplace relations and business issues and advocates for a regulatory environment that supports investment in community pharmacy. We believe a healthy pharmacy sector means healthier communities.

GUILD RESPONSE

The following response by the Guild follows the invitation to comment regarding on the *Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023*.

It is noted the *Jobs and Skills Amendment Bill 2023* will amend the *Jobs and Skills Australia Act 2022* to provide for the permanent governance arrangements and functions of Jobs and Skills Australia.

The Guild does not oppose the Jobs and Skills Amendment Bill 2023 and has provided comment on the following items.

Item 10

The Guild notes the proposed amendment to subparagraph 9(1)(a)(ii) being the insertion of "VET and higher education" after "apprenticeship."

The Guild agrees that the change will reflect the significance of VET and higher education to Australia's current and future training needs and priorities, including within the community pharmacy sector.

Item 11 and Item 13

The Guild notes the proposed repeal of subparagraphs 9(1)(a)(iv) and (vi) and replacement of said subparagraphs with four new paragraphs in 9(c), which further expand upon the functions of Jobs and Skills Australia.

Item 13 will provide greater insight into the needs of the workforce especially for regional, rural and remote Australia, and in relation to Australia's migration program.

The Guild believes that these increased functions will assist in addressing labour market imbalances including within the community pharmacy sector.

Item 31

The Guild notes the proposed change of Subsection 168(4) which requires a person who is appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Board to have substantial experience or knowledge in at least one of the listed fields within Item 31.

The Guild believes that this will ensure suitably qualified and experienced persons are appointed to the Board to aid the JSA Commissioner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023*. The Guild is available to address any items raised through this consultation process.