

MI-CRE 2026 Annual Research Symposium and Policy Forum

Uptake of 60-day prescriptions in different Australian population groups: A co-designed and co-produced research project

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Abstract

Background and Aims: In September 2023, the Australian Government introduced 60-day prescriptions (60DP) to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), doubling the quantity of medicines dispensed in a single pharmacy visit. Our Discovery Project aimed to examine uptake of 60DP at both the person and prescriber level. The project formed part of a broader MI-CRE research program evaluating the impact of this policy intervention.

Design and Methods: The MI-CRE 60-day research program adopted a dynamic co-design and co-production approach involving clinicians, consumers, researchers, and policy makers. The process began with a stakeholder forum where preliminary findings from analyses of the PBS 10% sample dataset were presented. To ensure consumer and clinician perspectives informed early project planning, a consumer advocate and a general practitioner joined the team as 'Research Buddies', alongside a pharmacist already in the project team. Stakeholders contributed feedback on research priorities, study design, and analysis plans throughout the project.

Results: Initial stakeholder consultation informed project planning by incorporating consumer concerns and clinical perspectives. A project kick-off meeting enabled the Research Buddies to provide feedback on the project plan and analysis strategy. Through ongoing consultation, stakeholders remained engaged at key stages to review progress, refine project design, and assist in interpretation of findings. This iterative process supported the inclusion of clinically relevant and consumer-informed analyses.

Conclusions: Early and ongoing stakeholder involvement strengthened the project by centring the research process on lived and professional experience. The flexible approach enabled us to adapt analysis plans in response to feedback and enhanced the relevance of the analyses.

Impact: This project generated evidence on uptake of the 60DP policy that will be disseminated in a scientific publication and other formats. It also facilitated a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge between MI-CRE researchers, consumer advocates, and clinicians, helping to inform ongoing evaluation of the policy and future research directions.