



Club Founder
Dr. Mahmoud Bahgat



International Pharmacists Club

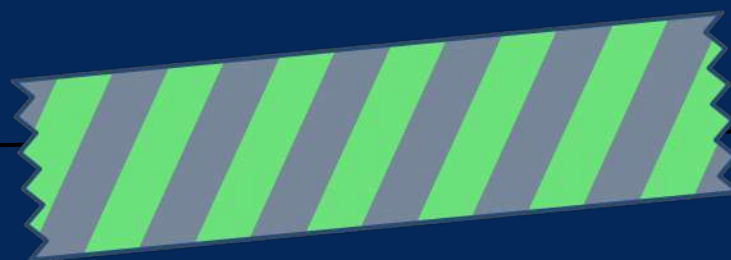
Pharmacist's Life in Australia

حياة الصيدلي في استراليا

10pm Egy & KSA 11 pm UAE



By Dr. Karim Hamdy
Lead Cancer Pharmacist Australia



Living and Working as a Pharmacist

Exploring the lifestyle and opportunities for pharmacists in Australia

Dr Karim (Hamdy) Ibrahim



Presentation Overview

- Personal Journey
- Life in Australia and its culture
- Pharmacy roles, salaries, and opportunities
- Registration process for Pharmacists
- Immigration pathways and options available
- Buying a Pharmacy in Australia
- Family life, housing, investing and cost of living



Dr Karim Ibrahim

About Me

- Bachelor of Pharmacy, Alexandria University (2000)
- Doctor of Clinical Pharmacy, UQ
- Lead Pharmacist, Bone Marrow Transplant & Cellular Therapies at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia
- Conjoint Senior Lecturer at UNSW Sydney
- Accredited Consultant Pharmacist
- Over 25 years of diverse experience in hospital pharmacy, primary healthcare, academia, research, and regulatory environments.



Dr Nawal Khalafallah







The Kinghorn Cancer Centre



Garvan Institute of Medical Research





St Vincent's Haematology, Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit Honour Board



VISIONARY

Dr John Chong and Mrs Anne Chong
Estate of Veronica Beryl Ferris OAM
NELUNE Foundation
Anonymous

LIFE GOVERNOR

The Late Italo Mazzola AM
Estate of Iris Joan Ormsby
Alexander Wade
Nick Wade
Sophie Wade
Jackie Waterhouse

GOVERNOR

Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation
The Cuming Family
Estate of Yasuko Mercer
Pegasus Haematology Fund
Neil Pennock
The TLR Foundation

PLATINUM

Estate of Kathleen Gwen Mothersole
Estate of Charles Said

NELUNE FOUNDATION

With special thanks to the following donors to the Haematology, Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit
through the NELUNE Foundation

Ali, Toby, Molly and George Anderson
Kevin, Bev, Lisa, Adam and Nikki Bermeister

Eriko Kinoshita and Clive Mayhew
Jeann Low
Monika and Michael Malone

Edward Miles and Antonia O'Neill
Graham and Glynn O'Neill
Paul O'Sullivan and Federico Di Micoli
Sintel Optus Pty Ltd

Staley-Lobo Family
Tour de Cure
Jon and Bre Wilkie

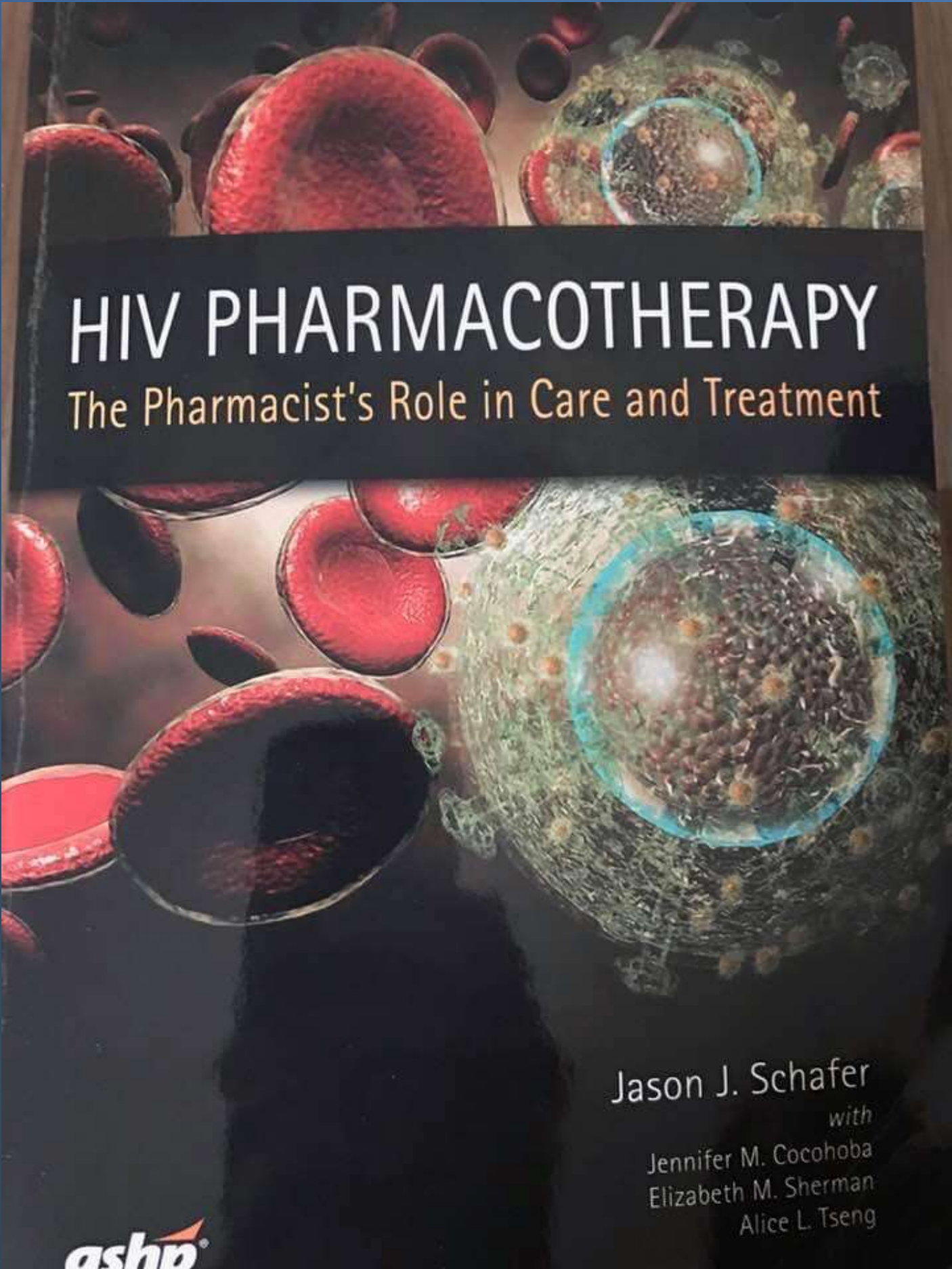




Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada







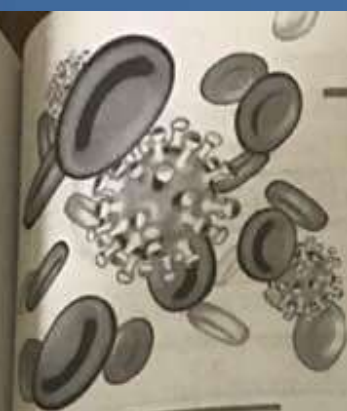
HIV PHARMACOTHERAPY

The Pharmacist's Role in Care and Treatment

Jason J. Schafer
with
Jennifer M. Cocohoba
Elizabeth M. Sherman
Alice L. Tseng

ashp®





Karim Ibrahim, BPharm, DClinPharm, AACPA, MSHP,
and Alison Yi Jin Wong, BPharm, MSc, AAHIVP

INTRODUCTION

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and malignancies have been linked since the early 1980s, when Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) was described in young men who also had concomitant symptoms of severe immunosuppression, a condition that was subsequently known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). In addition to KS, people living with HIV (PLHIV) are at an increased risk of developing high-grade B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and invasive carcinoma of the cervix. Hence, KS, NHL, and invasive carcinoma of the cervix are known as AIDS-defining cancers.^{1,2}

Other cancers such as Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) anal, colorectal, and liver carcinoma, although not classified as AIDS-defining cancers, occur at increased frequency in PLHIV.³ They are referred to as non-AIDS-defining cancers (NADC). The cumulative incidence of developing certain NADCs, including anal, colorectal, and liver, continue to increase over the years, partially due to the prolonged survival of PLHIV.⁴

MANAGEMENT OF AIDS-DEFINING CANCERS

Kaposi's Sarcoma

KS, one of the earliest manifestations of severe immunosuppression as a result of HIV infection, is generally associated with severe immunosuppression but can also occur at any CD4+ cell count. The advent of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) has led to a dramatic decrease in the incidence of KS in PLHIV.¹

KS is an endothelial cell tumor that is associated with human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) infection, also known as KS-associated herpes virus (KSHV).⁵ Therefore, HIV patients with HHV-8 co-infection are at high risk of developing KS. Transmission of HHV-8 in endemic areas can occur through saliva, whereas in epidemic KS, sexual transmission appears to be the major mode of acquisition.

KS typically manifests as pigmented lesions involving skin, mucous membranes of the mouth, eyes, nose, and anus. Skin lesions occur as reddish, purple, or bluish-brown nodules, lesions, or patches. Skin lesions can lead to very painful swelling, itching, and ulceration. Internal organs like lungs and the gastro-



Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

Elizabeth Hetterman, PharmD, BCPS

*Transplant Clinical Pharmacist
Department of Pharmacy
Loyola University Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois*

Emily C. Huesgen, PharmD, BCACP, AAHIVP

*HIV/HCV Clinical Pharmacist
Indiana University Health
Indianapolis Indiana*

Christine A. Hughes, BScPharm, PharmD, FCSHP

*Professor
Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

Karim Ibrahim, BPharm, DClinPharm, AACPA, MSHP

*Senior Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Pharmacist
Pharmacy Department
St. Vincent's Health Network
Darlinghurst, Australia*

Angela DM Kashuba, PharmD, DABCP, FCP

*John & Deborah McNeill, Jr. Distinguished Professor and Chair
Division of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics*

International



Pharmacists Club
Sharpen your skills

tre brings jobs



EMPLOYMENT Choice Pharmacy owner Karim Ibrahim joining the retail family at North Kellyville Square, who will open in July.

NG Property has developed the 5000 square metre convenience centre at the corner of Macdonald Street and...

"It's getting really exciting. To be able to provide opportunities for local...

Local Newspaper
reported on the opening
of our Pharmacy

Awards and recognition



Population

- Approximately **27 million** people live in Australia
- Major cities include **Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane**
- A **diverse and multicultural society** thrives across the nation
- **6th Largest** country in the world
- **6 states and two territories**



Australia's Unique Landscapes



**Coastal Beauty: Australia's
Stunning Beaches**



Outback Australia: the Heart of Australia

The outback showcases Australia's **diverse environments** from arid deserts to lush rainforests.



Australia Weather Overview

Key characteristics of Australia's climate

- Warm summers across most regions
- Mild winters with cooler weather in southern areas
- Temperature variations by region
- Coastal areas experience higher humidity
- Summer Dec-Feb, Winter June-August



Quality of life in Australia

- High Human Development Index (HDI)
- Universal healthcare (Medicare)
- Free public schooling
- Clean, safe cities
- Strong economy and infrastructure



Family Life

- Australia offers **free public schooling**. Private schooling available (religious and non-religious)
- Families enjoy a safe environment
- Access to high-quality universities



Australian Universities

QS World University Rankings 2026 (released June 2025):

- **University of Melbourne:** 19th globally
- **University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney):** 20th globally
- **The University of Sydney:** 25th globally
- **Australian National University:** 32nd globally
- **Monash University:** 36th globally
- **The University of Queensland:** 42nd globally



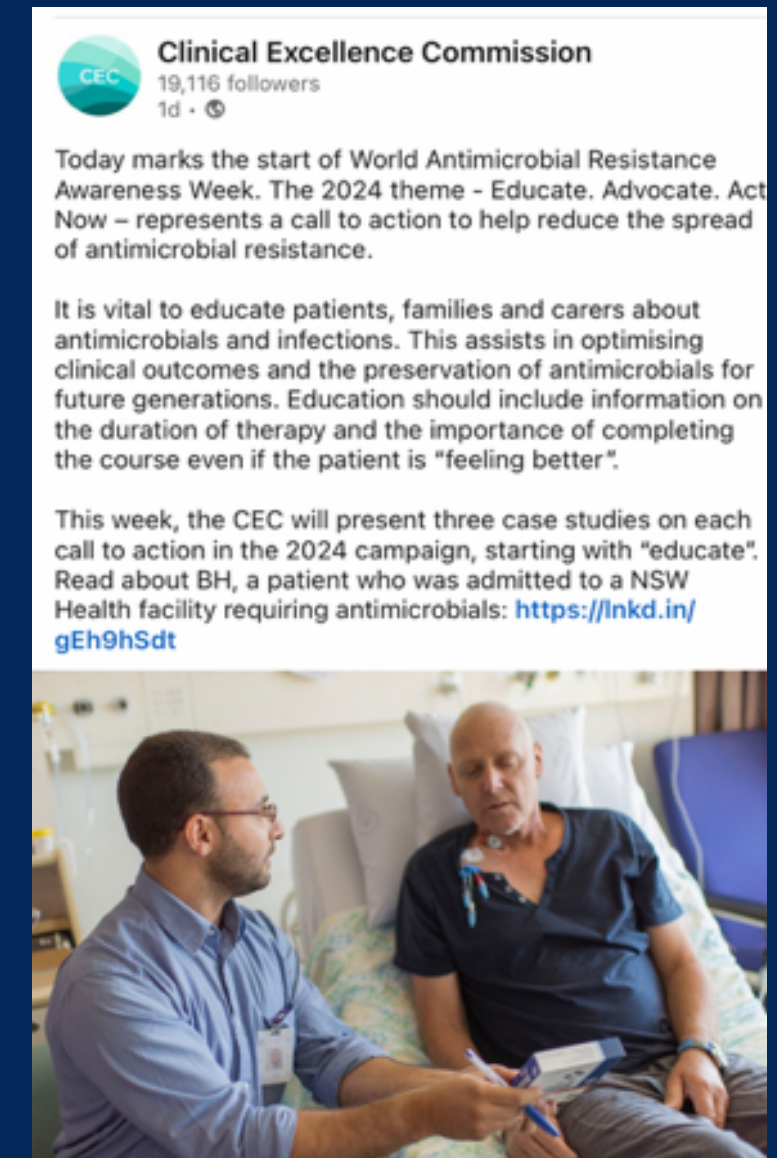
Pharmacist Career Pathways in Australia



Work Environment of Pharmacists in Australia

The work environment for pharmacists in Australia is diverse and dynamic. They can be found in various settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, Aged care facilities and GP clinics.

Pharmacists play a crucial role in public health initiatives e.g., vaccination, ensuring medication safety and promoting wellness within the community.



<https://www.linkedin.com/posts/clinical-excellence-commission>



Opportunities for Pharmacists in Australia

Diverse Career Paths

Pharmacists can explore various career paths, including community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, and industry roles. Each path offers unique experiences and **career growth opportunities** tailored to individual interests and skills.

Specialization Options

Specialized fields such as clinical pharmacy, oncology, and pediatrics are becoming increasingly important. **Advanced training and certifications** enable pharmacists to provide specialized care and enhance their professional standing in the healthcare community.

Job Market Insights

The demand for pharmacists is growing due to an aging population and evolving healthcare needs. Job security and competitive salaries make pharmacy a **promising profession** in Australia, reflecting a stable job market.

Future Opportunities

With advancements in technology and telehealth, pharmacists have new avenues to explore. Embracing these changes will allow pharmacists to enhance patient care and expand their role in the healthcare system, leading to **exciting prospects**.



Community Pharmacy

- **Community Pharmacy – The Foundation**
- **Core Role:** Dispensing, patient counselling, over-the-counter advice.
- **Career Progression:** Intern → Pharmacist → Pharmacist in Charge → Manager/Partner/Owner.
- **Specializations:**
 - Credentialed Diabetes Educator
 - Vaccination Services
 - Integrative Pharmacist (natural medicines)
 - Pain Management & Mental Health Support
 - Locum Pharmacist



Hospital Pharmacy Clinical Pharmacy

- **Clinical Collaboration:** Working within multidisciplinary healthcare teams.
- **Diverse Areas:** Oncology, critical care, pediatrics, emergency medicine, antimicrobial stewardship.
- **Advanced Roles:** Lead Oncology Pharmacist, Specialized Cardiology Pharmacist, Department Management.
- **Professional Development:** Great opportunity for professional development, career progression and research opportunity



Pharmacists Roles

This timeline highlights the evolving roles of pharmacists in various sectors.

Consultant
Pharmacist and
Aged Care
Pharmacist

Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs),
Residential Medication Management
Reviews (RMMRs)

General Practice
Pharmacist

Integrated into GP clinics for
medication management

Industrial
Pharmacist

Large scale production of medicines
Quality control and assurance
Developing, design and testing
Compliance with GMP

Research and
Academia

Pharmacists are increasingly
involved in research and academic
settings e.g., teaching in Universities



Pharmacists Roles

This timeline highlights the evolving roles of pharmacists in various sectors.

Clinical Trials and Research

Working in government and non-government agencies, e.g., Clinical Research associate

Pharmaceutical Industry

Commercial roles e.g., Sales and marketing, Medical information
Health outcomes and Research
Drug safety (pharmacovigilance)
Regulatory affairs

Public Health Policy,
Medicines Approvals,
Health Economics,
Health Management

Government roles shaping health policy e.g., TGA and state health e.g., NSW Health. Vic Health and Qld Health.

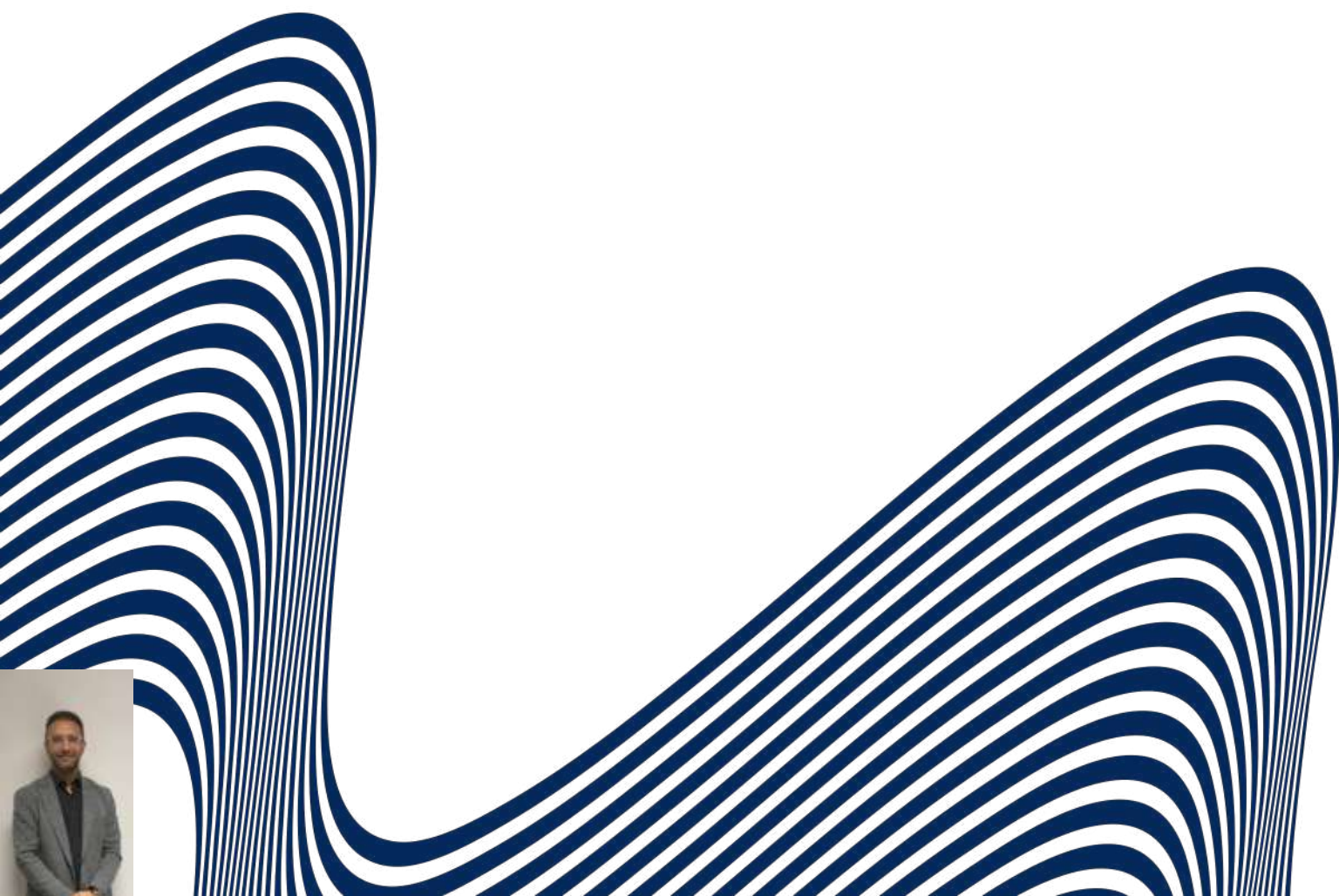
Poisons Specialist Pharmacist

Providing expert advice at poisons information centres.



Expanding roles of Pharmacists

This timeline highlights the evolving roles of pharmacists in various sectors.



Health IT and
Digital Health

Working in the evolving field of e-health and digital health, focusing on health information technology and systems.

Medical Writer

Utilising pharmacy knowledge to create scientific and medical content for publications, education, or industry.

Data Analyst

Analysing healthcare data to identify trends, improve patient outcomes, or inform policy.

Military
Pharmacist

Serving in the Australian armed forces, providing pharmaceutical care to service members.

PHARMACIST SALARIES

Understanding pay rates across Australia's pharmacy sector



Annual Pharmacy Salary Overview (before taxes)

- Intern Pharmacist: AUD 55K–60K
- Registered Pharmacist: AUD 90K–140K
- Senior Hospital Pharmacist-Director of Pharmacy: 140–185K plus benefits
- Regional roles offer higher salaries
- Rural positions often come with additional benefits
- All salaries does not include Superannuation (11–17%) on top of annual salary





Buying a Pharmacy in Australia

1

Must be a registered pharmacist to operate legally.

2

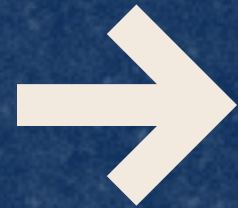
Price ranges from AUD \$1.5–\$3M+ for acquisition.

3

Franchise versus independent pharmacy ownership options.

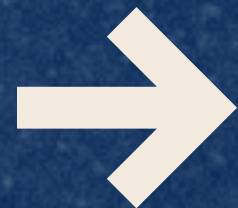


Key Market Insights



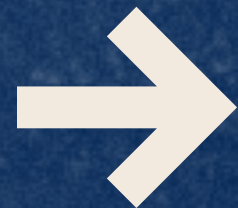
Best Cities for Pharmacies

Sydney and Melbourne are characterized by **high competition**, with many established pharmacies vying for market share, making entry challenging for new players.



Demand in Brisbane and Perth

These cities provide a **balanced demand** for pharmacy services, allowing for sustainable growth opportunities for both new and existing businesses.



Opportunities in Regional Areas

- High demand for pharmacy services exists
- Faster sponsorship processes in regional areas
- Growth potential in underserved markets



Tax Overview

Income tax rates range from **19% to 45%**, depending on earnings.

Business income tax is set at a standard **30%**
Goods and Services (GST) of **10%**

Superannuation contributions for employers are between **11% and 17%** of the salary.

Resident tax rates 2024–25

Taxable income	Tax on this income
0 – \$18,200	Nil
\$18,201 – \$45,000	16c for each \$1 over \$18,200
\$45,001 – \$135,000	\$4,288 plus 30c for each \$1 over \$45,000
\$135,001 – \$190,000	\$31,288 plus 37c for each \$1 over \$135,000
\$190,001 and over	\$51,638 plus 45c for each \$1 over \$190,000



Cost of Living

Key Factors Affecting Housing and Expenses

- Housing and groceries can be **expensive in cities**
- Regional areas are **more affordable options**
- Average monthly expenses range from **AUD \$2,500 to \$4,000**
- Urban living impacts daily budgets **significantly**
- Consider lifestyle choices when moving to **regions**



Saving and Investing Options

- Keep 3-6 months of expenses saved for emergency
- Create and follow a budget
- Avoid bad debt like credit cards and car loans
- Save and invest 10-15% of your income regularly
- Superannuation for retirement planning as super is a tax efficient environment (15% tax rate up to 30K AUD per year)
- Shares and ETFs to diversify investments (ethical investment options exist)
- Property investment
- Gold and commodities



Average Property Prices (houses)

1.5Mil

Sydney Average Price

950K

Melbourne Average Price

1Mil

Brisbane Average Price

850K-900K

Adelaide & Perth Price Range



Qualifications Required for Pharmacists in Australia

To become a pharmacist in Australia, individuals must complete specific educational programs and obtain necessary licenses and certifications to practice safely.

Educational Requirements

A **Bachelor of Pharmacy** degree or equivalent is essential to become a licensed pharmacist in Australia.

Licensing

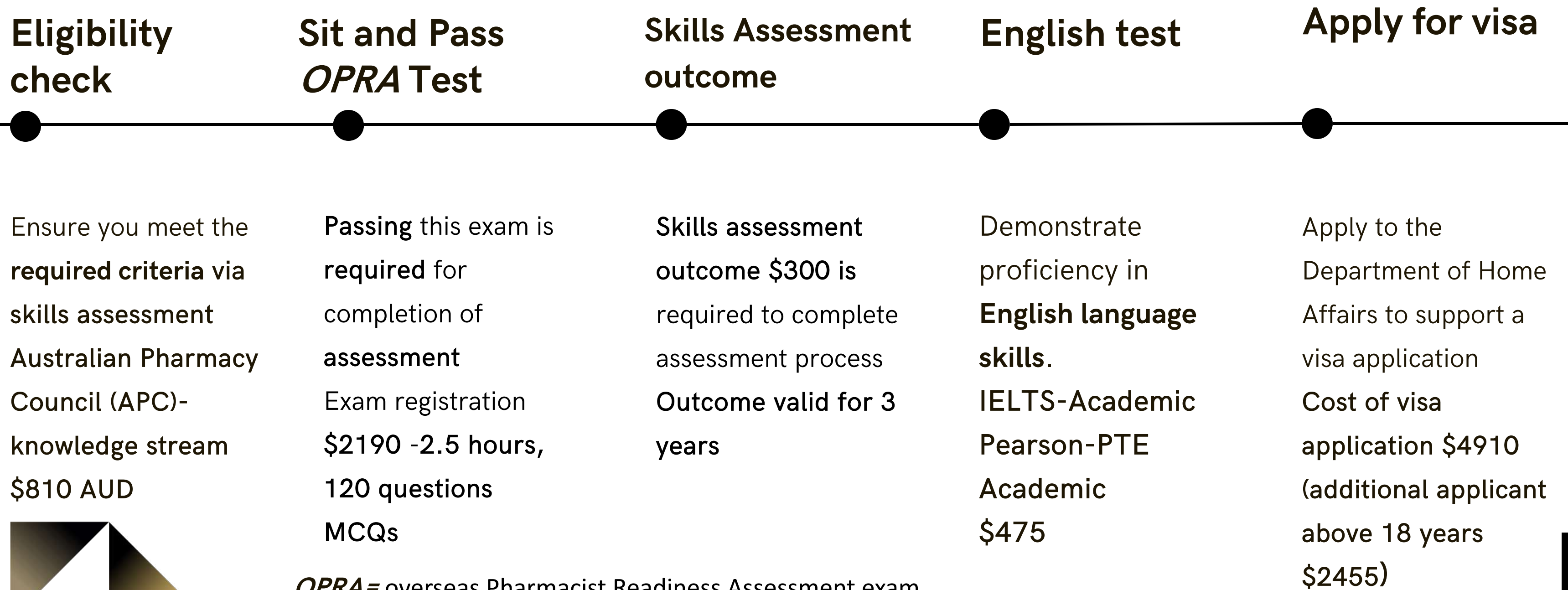
Pharmacists must obtain a **practicing license** from the Pharmacy Board of Australia to work in the field.

Continuing Education

Ongoing professional development is required to maintain licenses and stay updated on **pharmaceutical advancements** and regulations.



Pathway to becoming a registered Pharmacist in Australia Overview- Part 1



Pathway to becoming a registered Pharmacist in Australia Overview- Part 2

Apply for
provisional
registration

Travel to
Australia

Intern year

Board Exam

Apple for
general
registration

Apply for provisional registration with Pharmacy Board of Australia (Ahpra)- \$397

Arrive in Australia to begin your professional journey

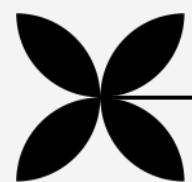
Gain practical experience in an **Australian pharmacy**. registration. Complete 1575 hours of supervised training + complete Accredited Intern Training program (ITP) \$1950

Successfully complete the **oral and written board examination** pharmacy

Apple for General registration via Pharmacy board \$470-\$565

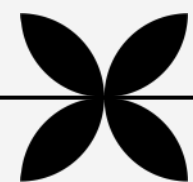


Estimated Timeline Overview



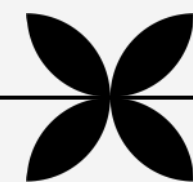
Duration

Total duration is **2–3 years.**

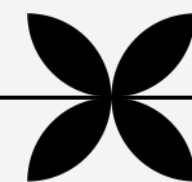


Costs

Projected costs are **AUD \$10K–12K (without travel or migration agent costs)**



Planning



Budgeting



Content area	Percentage of questions allocated
Biomedical sciences	20%
Medicinal chemistry and biopharmaceutics	10%
Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	10%
Pharmacology and toxicology	15%
Therapeutics and patient care	45%

The *OPRA*[®] has five content areas

Preparing for the *OPRA*[™] exam https://youtu.be/J_3Xhm1riH4 and <https://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/resources/opra-exam-guide-and-sample-paper/#Resources>



English Proficiency Requirements

Key scores and conditions for pharmacists

- IELTS: 7.0 in each band
- OET: B grade in each component
- PTE: Overall score of at least 65
- Test must be recent, within 2 years
- Approved test centers only



Intern Year and Oral/written Exams

Overview of Key Components for Interns

- Intern Training Program (ITP) structure
- 1575 hours of supervised work
- Comprehensive clinical scenario assessments
- Legal considerations in pharmacy practice
- Ethical scenarios during oral examination



Visa Types for Pharmacists

Skilled Migration Visa

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190)

Permanent skilled
nominated

Skilled Independent (subclass 491)

temporary Skilled
Regional
State or nominated

Skilled Regional (489)

temporary
skilled regional visa
state or territory
nominated



Visa Types for Pharmacists

Employer sponsored

482 Visa: Skills in Demand Temporary employer-sponsored visa for skilled workers.

186 Visa: Permanent employer-sponsored Direct Entry option for long-term residency.

494 Visa: Temporary skilled employer sponsored regional nominations for skilled migration.



Steps to Australian Citizenship

- Temporary visa to Permanent Residency (PR) transition
- 4 years of PR residency requirement
- Pass Australian Citizenship test (20 MCQs, need 15/20 to pass)
- Fulfill good character requirements



- Start **English** and CPRA prep early
- Network with pharmacists in your area who are considering move to Australia
- Stay updated on **visa** and policy changes
- Manage your expectations
- Join local **support** groups for guidance e.g.,
Land down under Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/176142019398359/>

Tips for a Smooth Transition

Here are some **essential tips** for your journey.



Tips for Job Search

- **Tailor your Resume/CV and Cover Letter:** Make sure they are specifically tailored to Australian standards and the specific job description.
- **Networking: Connect** with pharmacists in Australia on LinkedIn.
- **Be Persistent:** Job searching can take time.
- **Consider Locum Work:** Many overseas pharmacists start with locum (temporary) work through agencies.
- **Highlight Registration Progress:** If you're an overseas pharmacist, clearly state your current stage in the Ahpra/APC registration process in your applications.



Resources (1)

- Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) <https://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/>
- Skills assessment for overseas Pharmacist <https://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/pharmacist/skills-assessment/knowledge-stream/>
- How to become pharmacist in Australia - the journey of an overseas-trained pharmacist <https://youtu.be/GuGUq7EizB4>
- Preparing for the OPRA™ exam https://youtu.be/J_3Xhm1riH4 and <https://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/resources/opra-exam-guide-and-sample-paper/#Resources>

- Department of Home Affairs (DHA) - Official Immigration Website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>
- Visa Pricing Estimator (for current visa costs): <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/fees-and-charges/visa-pricing-estimator>
- Explore Visa Options: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>
- Australian Citizenship by Conferral: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship/become-a-citizen/permanent-resident>
- Residence Calculator (for citizenship): <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/tools/residence-calculator>

- Pharmacy Board of Australia (Ahpra): <https://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/>

- English Language Skills Registration Standard (important!): <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Standards/English-language-skills.aspx>
- FAQ on English Language Skills (Pharmacy Board specific): <https://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ/English-language-skills.aspx>
- Pearson PTE Academic: Official Website: <https://www.pearsonpte.com/>
- PTE Academic in Australia <https://www.pearsonpte.com/destination-australia> Test Centers and Fees: <https://www.pearsonpte.com/test-centers-and-fees>
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System): <https://ielts.com.au/>
- OET (Occupational English Test): <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/>



Resources (2)

Finding & Verifying Migration Agents

- **Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA):**
 - Home Page: <https://www.mara.gov.au/>
 - Search for a Registered Agent (most important tool): <https://portal.mara.gov.au/search-the-register-of-migration-agents/>
 - Choosing a Registered Agent: <https://www.mara.gov.au/get-help-with-a-visa/help-from-registered-agents/steps-to-choose/overview>
- **Migration Institute of Australia (MIA):**
 - Home Page: <https://mia.org.au/>
 - Find a Member Directory: <https://mia.org.au/Web/Web/Find-a-Member.aspx>
- **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA):** The peak national professional pharmacy organisation. Not involved in registration, but a good resource for professional development, news, and advocacy. <https://www.psa.org.au/>
- The **Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA)** has recently rebranded and is now known as **Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha)**. AdPha website: <https://adpha.au>
- The two main websites for finding real estate for sale or rent in Australia are:
 1. **realestate.com.au:** <https://www.realestate.com.au/>
 2. **Domain.com.au** <https://www.domain.com.au/>
- **Newaussie.com.au** <https://newaussie.com.au/> a website that serves as a forum for new migrants and residents of Australia (Arabic/English): (please note that this is not an official government website)



Resources (3)

Pharmacy Job Websites:

- **General Job Boards:**
 - SEEK: <https://www.seek.com.au/>
 - Indeed: <https://au.indeed.com/>
- **Specialised Pharmacy Recruitment:**
 - Raven's Recruitment: <https://www.ravensrecruitment.com.au/>
 - LocumCo: <https://locumco.com.au/>
 - VIS Health: <https://pharmacyrecruitment.com.au/>
- **Hospital Pharmacy Specific:**
 - State Health Dept Job Portals (e.g., NSW Health): <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/>
 - AdPha Jobs Board: <https://jobsboard.adpha.au/>
- **Personal LinkedIn profile Dr Karim (Hamdy) Ibrahim:** www.linkedin.com/in/karim-ibrahim-20226230





Questions?

