

## The Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM) Project

This Project is funded by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing.

The Project enables consumers to return unwanted and out of date medicines to any pharmacy – anytime.

Disposal of the returned medicines is conducted in accordance with regulatory and EPA requirements.

Designed by HPR [hprcreative.com.au](http://hprcreative.com.au)

### The Project is supported by:

The Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing

The Council on the Ageing (COTA)

Medicines Australia

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



**Return  
Unwanted  
Medicines  
(The RUM Project)**

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## Return your unwanted medicines to your pharmacy for safe disposal



## Why your medicine cabinet can be a health hazard

Most of the medicines in our medicine cabinet we need, but what about the yellow pills in a jar that's lost its label, and the eye drops we have had for a longtime. And what was that Quivinox B-Sulphamate for?



### Old medicines lying around the home 'just in case' are dangerous...



If taken when they're out-of-date  
If taken when not prescribed for you  
If in reach of little prying fingers

The RUM Project provides the safest and easiest way to dispose of unwanted and out-of-date medicines.

It makes possible the return of all household medicines to any pharmacy at anytime - for free and safe collection and disposal.

### Think before you throw

Unwanted medicines are often dumped into the toilet, tipped down the sink or put out with the garbage, which starts a journey that can seriously harm the environment.

More than 500 tonnes of medicines find their way into waterways and landfill every year.

We need to change our behaviours to solve this problem and give the environment a chance.



**Don't flush medicines down the toilet.**

Sewerage plants can't treat all chemicals in waste water, resulting in contamination of waterways.



**Don't pour medicines down the sink.**

Household medicines contain highly soluble chemicals which when entered into water systems can harm aquatic life.



**Don't throw medicines into the garbage bin.**

Household medicines disposed of this way end up in exposed landfill sites.

### RUM provides the best alternative

By returning out-of-date and unwanted medicines to our local pharmacy, we can make our home a safer place, help safeguard our community and protect our environment.



**This is all we need to do...  
it really is easy**

- STEP 1** Sort through your medicine cabinet and drawers, putting to one side the out-of-date and unwanted medicines
- STEP 2** Take them to your local pharmacy
- STEP 3** Give them to your pharmacist for proper disposal, and...



- STEP 4** Tell your friends and relatives about the RUM Project.

