



New roles for pharmacists

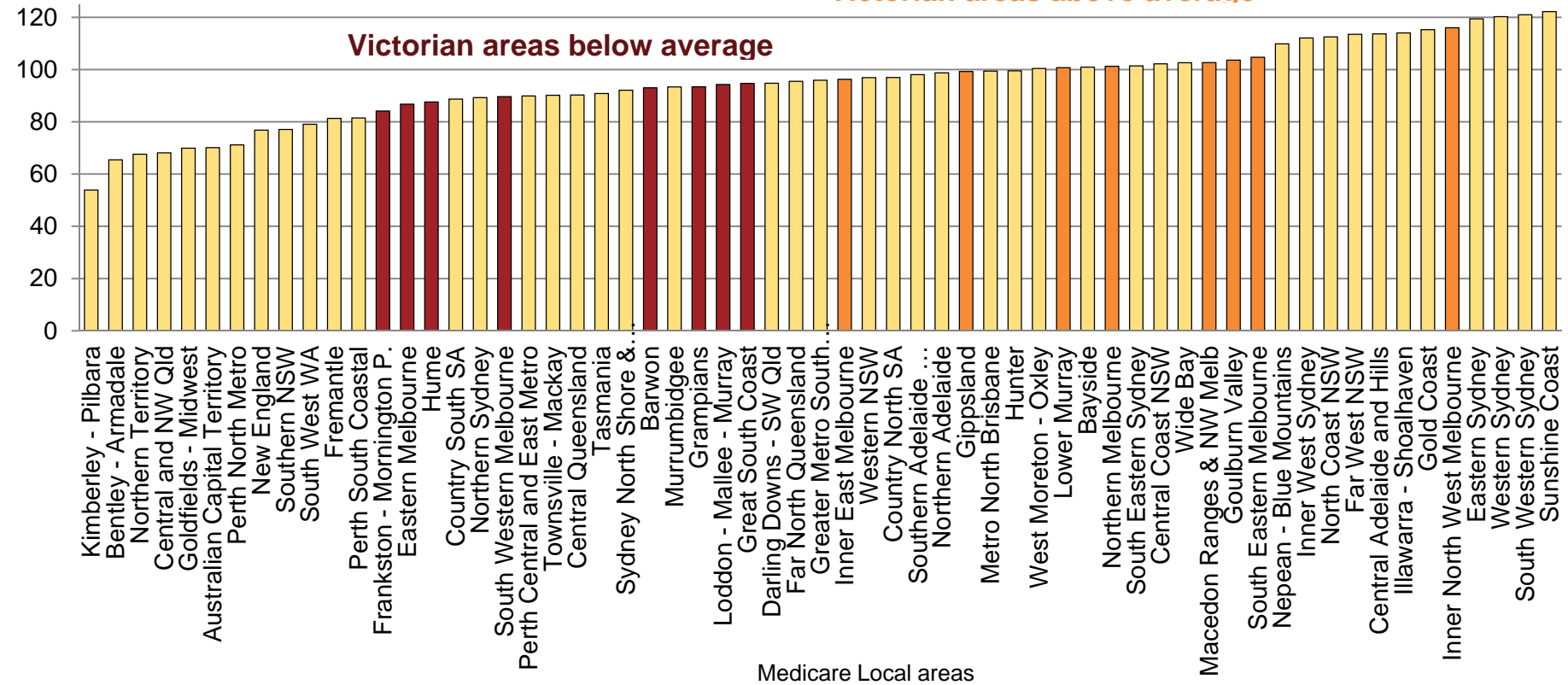
Presentation to the Inquiry into Community Pharmacy

Stephen Duckett

July 2014

GPs access varies greatly – several Victorian areas are below the national average

GP full-time workforce equivalent per 100k population



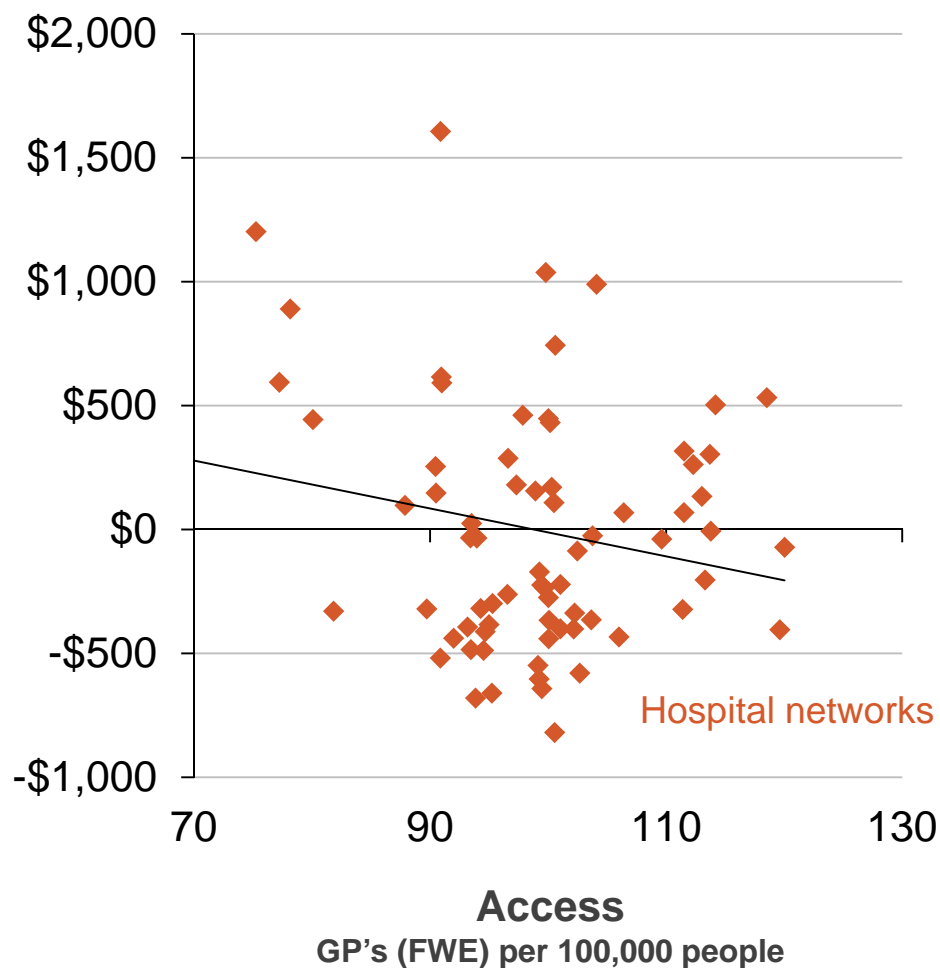
Victorian areas below the national average level of GP services per person:

- Frankston – Mornington Peninsula
- Eastern Melbourne
- Hume
- South Western Melbourne
- Barwon
- Grampians
- Loddon-Mallee-Murray
- Great South Coast

Low access is associated with higher hospital costs ...

Costliness of care

Adjusted cost per separation (relative to Australian average, 2008-9 to 2010-11)*



Adjustments include controls for:

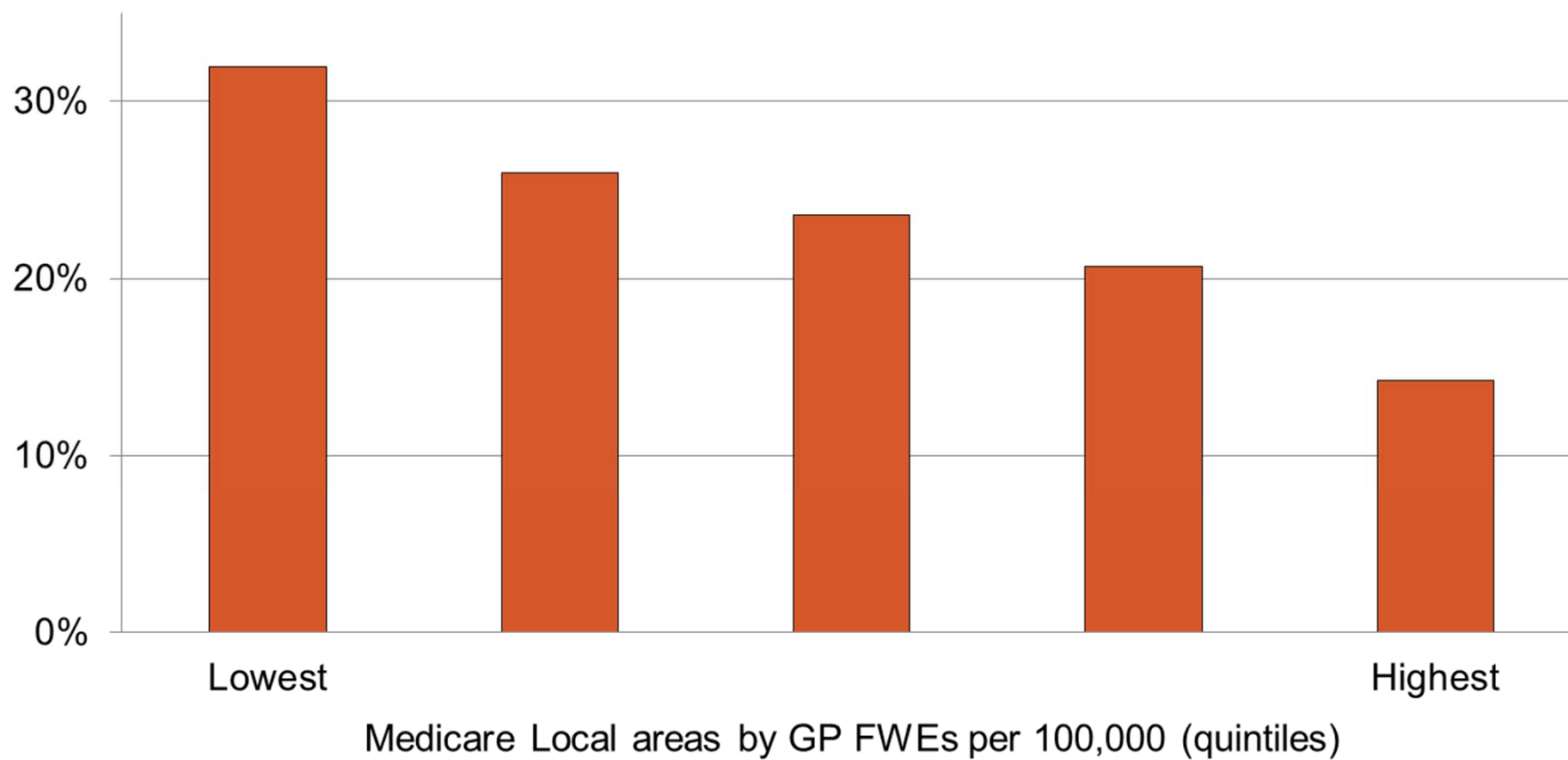
- DRG mix
- Admission mode
- Separation mode
- Age
- Indigenous status
- Patient remoteness
- Hours of mechanical ventilation
- A weighted charlson score
- SLA measures of public health (e.g. smoking rates)
- Hospital network scale
- Hospital network scope
- Whether a hospital is a specialist women's/children's

Source: Grattan analysis of NHDC data

... and higher patient fees

Bulk billing by GP access, 2011

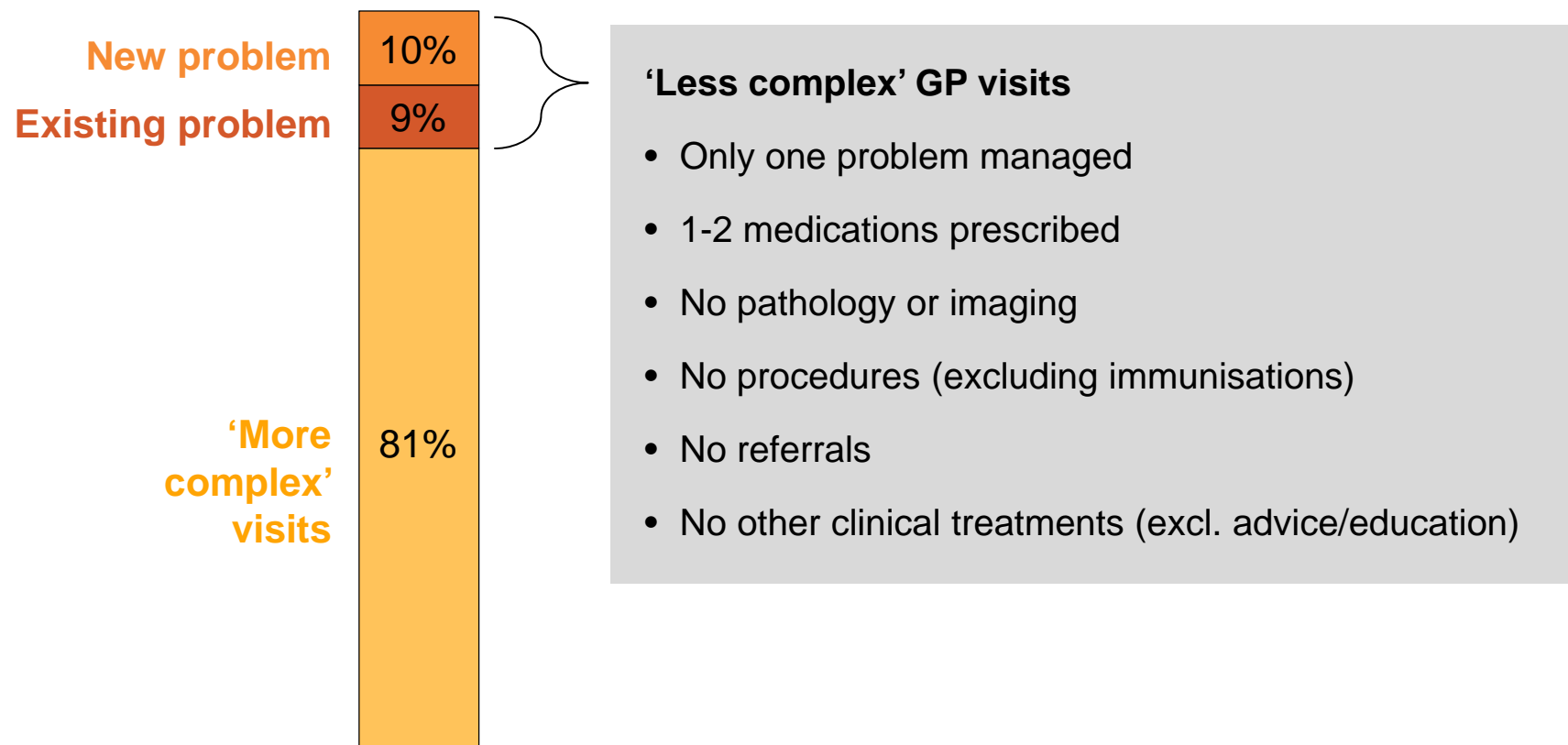
Average proportion of services that are **not** bulk billed



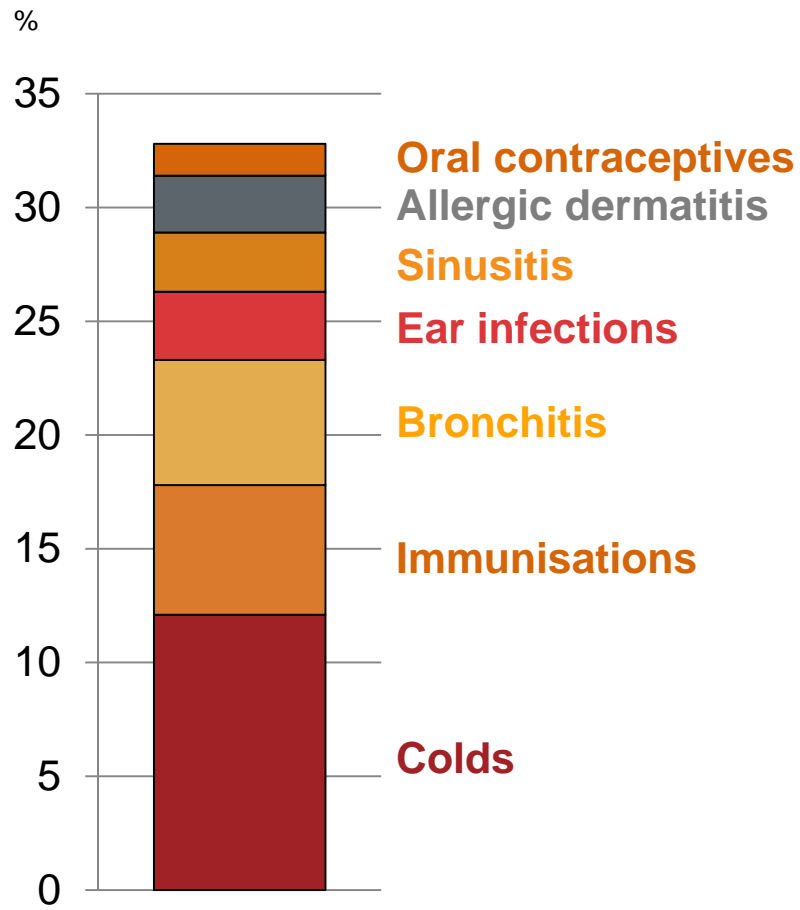
Source: Grattan Institute (from DoHA data)

GPs could get more support from a team of professionals who can focus on less complex visits

GP visits by complexity and remoteness, 2011-12

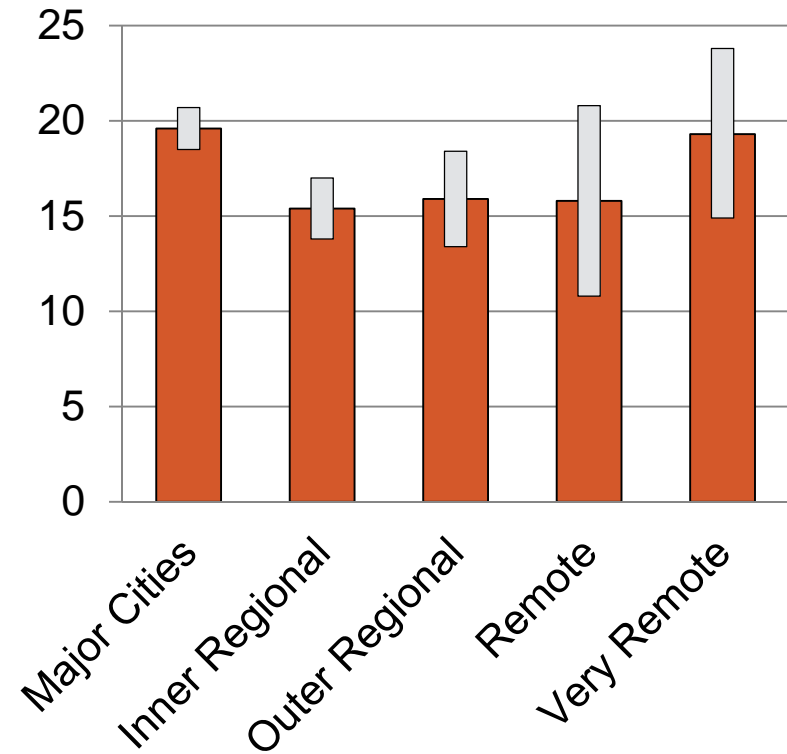


Proportion of 'less complex' visits with relatively straightforward problems



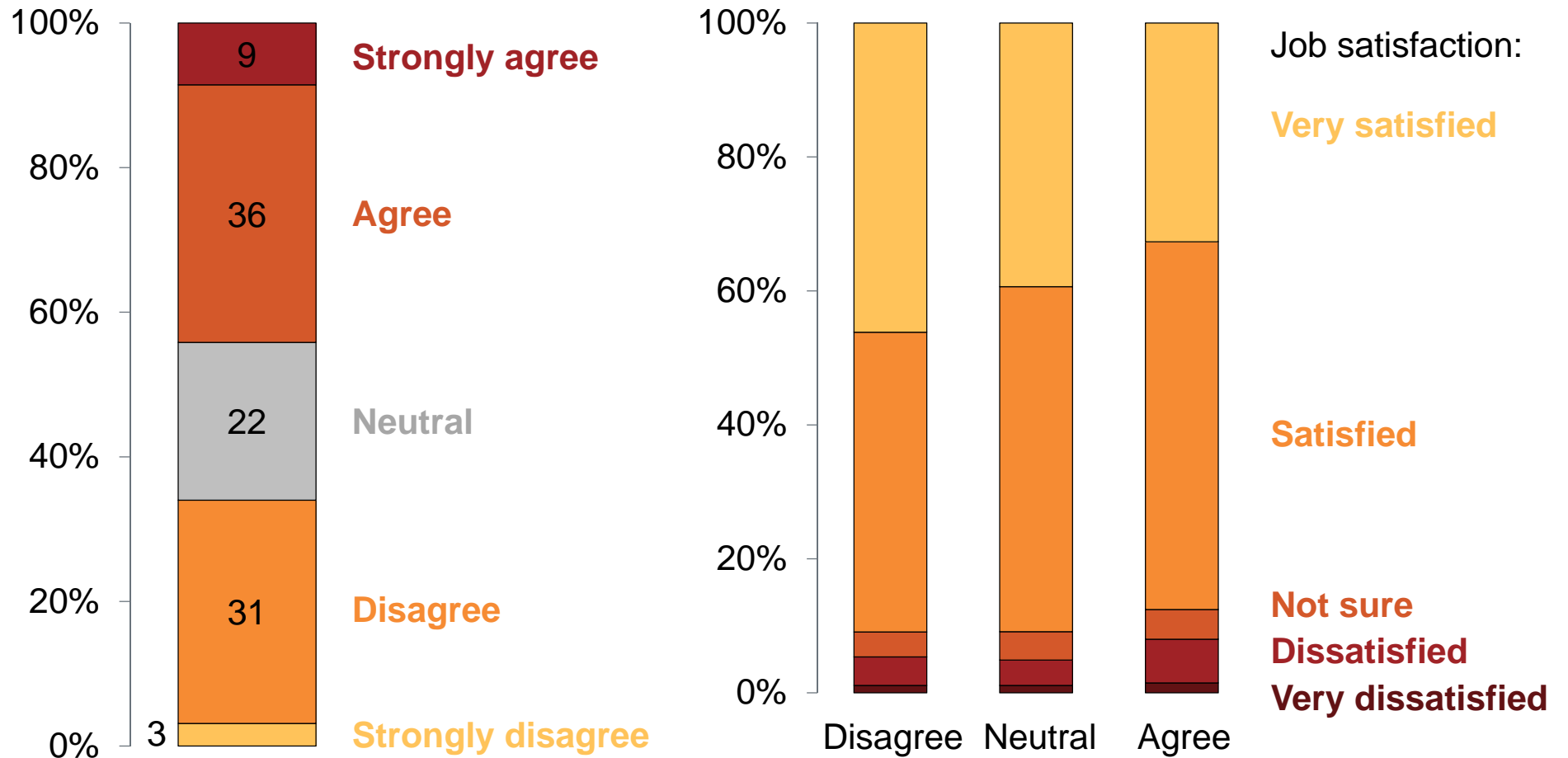
Proportion of 'less complex' visits by remoteness

'Less complex' visits (%)



Source: Grattan Institute analysis of BEACH data

GP agreement that “I often undertake tasks that could be done by someone less qualified than me” (left) and relationship with job satisfaction (right)



Source: MABEL, w4

Pharmacists are trusted professionals, located throughout Australia, who could provide a wider range of services

- Pharmacists play broader roles in primary care in many other countries
- There is good evidence that this is convenient for patients, improves quality of care, and contains costs
- Pharmacists should:
 - give vaccinations – independently
 - give repeat prescriptions – with GP referral
 - advise on chronic care – with GP referral

Some broader pharmacist roles around the world

Pharmacist vaccinators

US, Canada, Portugal, Ireland and the UK. Successful trials in New Zealand

Reissuing prescriptions for long-term conditions

UK and some Canadian provinces

Pharmacists in a chronic care team

Canada, the UK, New Zealand and the US