



aadpa

ADHD INFORMATION SHEET



ADHD MEDICATION SHORTAGES IN AUSTRALIA

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

Current until December 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Australia is currently experiencing a national shortage of ADHD medications — especially long-acting methylphenidate-based medicines like Concerta® and Ritalin LA®. These shortages are expected to last at least until December 2025. Some children may need to change their dosing schedules or even switch to another medication, which can temporarily affect how they feel or function during the day.

TGA Supply Snapshot August 2025

Methylphenidate (long-acting)	Concerta®, Ritalin LA®	▶ Limited supply: Current shortages affecting all brands
Methylphenidate (immediate-release)	Ritalin® 10mg	▶ Anticipated shortage: From end of August — end of October 2025
	Artige®	▶ Available
Dexamfetamine (immediate-release)	Aspen Dexamphetamine®	▶ Available
Lisdexamfetamine	Vyvanse®	▶ Available
Atomoxetine (non-stimulant)	Generic brands	▶ Available
Guanfacine (non-stimulant)	Intuniv®	▶ Available

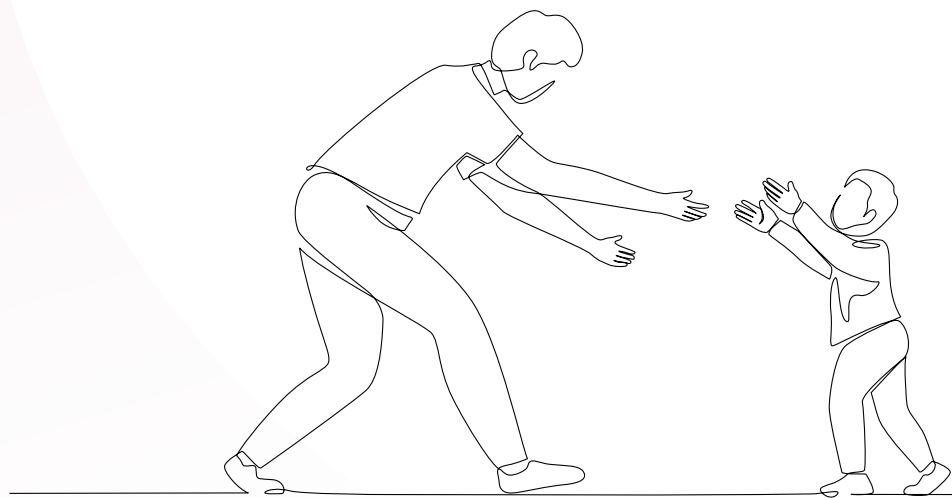
WHAT MIGHT CHANGE FOR MY CHILD?

If your child normally takes long-acting methylphenidate, they may need to:

- Switch to a shorter-acting version taken more often (this would be the preference).
- Try a different stimulant, such as dexamfetamine or lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse®).
- Start a non-stimulant, such as atomoxetine or guanfacine (Intuniv®).

WHAT MIGHT YOU NOTICE?

- Nothing — the transition is often smooth with no problems.
- Changes in focus, concentration, or task completion.
- Changes in how your medicine works across the day.
- Increased irritability, mood swings, or emotional sensitivity.
- Appetite changes (up or down).
- Sleep difficulties or feeling more tired than usual.
- Mild physical side effects like headache or stomach upset.



TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

- Talk to your child's doctor regularly — and don't stop or change medications without advice.
- Track changes in mood, appetite, sleep, and focus.
- Let your child's school know — teachers may notice changes first.
- Keep routines predictable — bedtime, screen time, and meals.
- Involve your child in discussions about their medications and how they are feeling.
- Ask your clinician for a letter to explain medication changes to school if needed.
- You're not alone — reach out to a online communities like [ADHD Australia](#), [ADHD WA](#), [ADHD Foundation](#) or peer support networks.