



26 November 2014

Media release

Ninth Guild National Student Business Plan Competition goes trans-Tasman

The Guild has launched the 2015 National Student Business Plan Competition – the ninth year of the industry’s most innovative and business-focussed contest. For the first time, the competition eligibility has been extended to include pharmacy students studying in New Zealand.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia welcomes the support of the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand in this new and exciting element to this prestigious competition.

Since its inception in 2006, the competition has become a key event on the pharmacy calendar for pharmacy students who desire to learn more about business management as well as demonstrate the innovative ideas that the pharmacy owners of tomorrow have for their future business ventures.

The 2015 competition aims to assist students towards even greater success in their community pharmacy careers. The competition is designed to:

- Encourage innovation among pharmacy students
- Ensure that tomorrow’s owners look for highly differentiated services to offer the Australian market
- Ensure that graduates are “Program Ready” by exposing students to the suite of GuildCare programs
- Provide a strong platform for students to move into the Guild Intern Training Program
- Develop the skills required in approaching the task of owning or managing a pharmacy
- Supplement the business management subjects within Bachelor or Master of Pharmacy courses.

The competition is supported by principal sponsors Blackmores.

“Blackmores is dedicated to enriching the health and well-being of the Australian and New Zealand communities and believes investing in our young professionals plays an essential role in this development. As the future owners and successful pharmacy businessmen and women in both countries, Blackmores is proud to be the principal sponsor for the National Student Business Plan Competition for 2014-2016 and support community pharmacy,” says Kerry Cunningham, Director Partnerships and Capability Growth.

And as foundation sponsors since 2006, Gold Cross and PDL continue into their ninth year of

National Secretariat

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support for the competition. The 2015 competition will be officially launched in January at the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association Congress (Gold Coast) by a member of the 2014 winning team from the Charles Sturt University/University of Canberra collaboration.

The timeline for the competition is below:

Stage Component	Date
One Submit your Business Plan	15 May 2015
Two Quarter Finals	22 June – 10 July 2015
Three Semi Finals (including preliminary pitch)	27 July – 14 August 2015
Four Finals: Live Pitch	PBN 2015 - early September 2015
Five Finals: Post Pitch Investor Meeting	PBN 2015 - early September 2015

The National Student Business Plan Competition is open to all students studying pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand and provides a total of \$12,000 in cash prizes to the finalists (top three teams) in addition to registration, flights and accommodation to attend the 2015 Pharmacy Business Network.

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