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MEDIA RELEASE

Capital Chemist Bathurst named Australia's Community Pharmacy of the Year

Capital Chemist Bathurst has been awarded National Community Pharmacy of the Year at the 2026 National Pharmacy Awards, announced today at Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP).

The community pharmacy has now earned a national honour for its exceptional leadership, patient-directed care, and innovative health services. With nearly 50 staff and a collaborative, service-driven model, the pharmacy has become a benchmark for regional healthcare excellence.

Marcus Heiner, one of five owners of Capital Chemist Bathurst said, "We're incredibly proud to receive this national recognition, but the real honour is being trusted by our community every day."

"Our focus has always been simple – if a service will make it easier for patients to get care when they need it, we want to find a way to deliver it in the pharmacy. Whether it's supporting NDIS participants, running vaccination clinics, or helping someone manage a new diagnosis, we want Bathurst families to know they can come to us first."

"Regional communities shouldn't have to miss out on high-quality care. This award is a credit to our whole team and to our partners across general practice, hospitals and community organisations who share our commitment to healthier communities."

Capital Chemist Bathurst was recognised for:

- Pioneering a Homecare and NDIS support model now being adopted across Australia
- Developing digital tools to enhance care coordination and continuity of treatment
- Strong collaborations with GPs, hospitals and community organisations
- Delivering a broad range of patient services, from vaccinations to chronic disease support
- Deep community engagement, including outreach to aged care, veterans and rural groups

National Secretariat

Level 2, 15 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600
PO Box 310, Fyshwick ACT 2609
P: +61 2 6270 1888 • F: +61 2 6270 1800 • E: guild.nat@guild.org.au

www.guild.org.au



Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President Professor Trent Twomey congratulated the pharmacy on its national achievement.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW President Mario Barone said the award shows what's possible in community pharmacy.

“They are going far beyond dispensing medicines – they are delivering vaccinations, chronic disease support, homecare services and tailored programs for people living with disability and veterans. That’s exactly the kind of community-based care we need more of across New South Wales.”

“More services, closer to home, delivered by highly trained pharmacists who know their patients. Bathurst families know they can Think Pharmacy First because this team is there for them when it matters.”

Community pharmacies are Australia’s most accessible and trusted frontline healthcare providers, available when most other services are closed and providing support for everyday and unexpected health needs.

Nominations for the 2027 National Pharmacy Awards are now open at www.findapharmacy.com.au.

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Media enquiries: Hazel Gidley – 0429 827 830