



12 March 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Tasmania's Mia Shinkfield wins Student Pharmacist of the Year

Mia Shinkfield, from West Hobart who studied at the University of Tasmania has been named 2026 National Student Pharmacist of the Year at the Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP).

Mia was recognised for her commitment to culturally safe care, academic excellence, leadership and advocacy — qualities that reflect a future pharmacist already shaping the profession in meaningful ways.

“It’s an incredible honour to be recognised at a national level, and I’m very grateful to my mentors, colleagues and family who have supported me on this journey,” Ms Shinkfield said.

“For me, pharmacy is about meeting people where they are. I want every patient to feel respected, heard and supported to make the best decisions for their health.”

“We’re entering a really exciting time for pharmacy, where students and new graduates will be able to deliver more services and play an even bigger role in primary care. It’s an exciting time to be a pharmacy student.”

Her achievements include:

- Completing a Bachelor of Pharmacy with Applied Honours, demonstrating academic excellence
- Leadership roles within TAPS and NAPSA, strengthening the student pharmacy community
- Clinical placements in low socioeconomic regions, sharpening her patient-centred approach
- Advocacy for culturally safe care, strengthened through the Yindymarra Scholarship
- Research focused on benzodiazepine tapering, contributing to safer medication management

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Joe O’Malley said that Mia was already making an impact beyond the pharmacy.

“Mia is exactly the kind of emerging leader our profession needs,” Mr O’Malley said.

“She brings together academic excellence, cultural awareness and a genuine commitment to serving communities that often struggle to access care. From her honours research to her advocacy through TAPS and NAPSA, she is already making an impact.”

“Tasmania continues to punch above its weight nationally, and Mia’s recognition as the Student Pharmacist of the Year shows the strength of the next generation of pharmacists coming through. She’s proof that the future of pharmacy is in very good hands.”

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



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

-ENDS - Media enquiries: Hazel Gidley – 0429 827 830