Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



PSOTY 2027 Competition – Information

The Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) award recognises and celebrates outstanding pharmacy students by showcasing their counselling skills to the pharmacy profession.

Students compete against their peers to demonstrate their pharmacy knowledge and counselling techniques and gain valuable practical experience in state competitions from which finalists are chosen to take part in the national event.

One final year student will be selected to represent their university and compete in the PSOTY state finals for 2027. Universities are responsible for how they select their final student. Each state finalist will then compete in the national final at PSA27.

Only PSA student members are eligible to compete in the PSA PSOTY competition and all state finalists plus the wildcard winner will appear in the July edition of Australian Pharmacist.

As well as the national winner, there will also be the people's choice award voted on by popular vote at the live final at PSA27.

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) also conducts a PSOTY wildcard competition at their annual conference. The winner of this competition is awarded a wildcard entry into the PSOTY national final at PSA annual national conference.

The NAPSA Wildcard Heat will be held on **Tuesday 1 December 2026 (1.00 pm – 3.00 pm AEDT)** and assessed by an internal PSA judging panel. The NAPSA Wildcard Final will be held on **Friday 15 January 2027 (8.30 am – 9.30 am AWST).**

Please note: time in AWST (WA); NT +1.5 hours; QLD +2 hours; SA +2.5 hours; ACT/NSW/VIC/TAS +3 hours.

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A summary of the competition timelines and key dates is provided below:

PSOTY competition activity	Month	Date
NAPSA Wildcard Heat	Dec 2026	Tuesday 1 Dec 2026
NAPSA Wildcard Final	Jan 2027	Friday 15 Jan 2027
University Heats or selection of finalist	Mar/Apr 2027	Variable
State Finals (WA, QLD, SA/NT, VIC and NSW)	May 2027	TBC
National Final for PSOTY @PSA27	Aug 2027	Thursday 5 Aug 2027
PSOTY Winner Announced @PSA27	Aug 2027	Thursday 5 Aug 2027

Please note no state finals are required in Tasmania or ACT and university finalists from these states will go straight to the national final. University finalists must be submitted by 30 April 2027.

PSOTY: Competition format

The competition is designed to reflect real life practice and to encourage and reinforce the role of the pharmacist as a health care provider.

The PSOTY competition provides a platform for students to challenge their ability to impart accurate, evidence-based healthcare information and advice to patients using appropriate communication techniques. The competition is based around case scenarios that are designed to reflect real-life practice and to encourage and reinforce the role of the pharmacist as an essential healthcare provider.

- Students will roleplay a common practical situation involving an interaction with a standardised customer (actor). Students will be required to assist the customer, give advice and guidance and recommend the most appropriate non-prescription medicine, or other outcome, for the presenting symptom or request.
- The following rules apply to all the heats and finals for the NAPSA Wildcards, State/Territory and National competitions.
- Students will be held in a holding room until their counselling sessions.
- Students will have 5 minutes to complete a scenario.
- A bell will ring at 4 minutes (1 minute remaining), indicating you should wind up the conversation or sentence and prepare to finish in the remaining 1 minute. The final bell will ring at 5 minutes signalling the end of the counselling session. All students will be stopped at 5 minutes.
- Once students have completed their scenario, they will be asked to exit the competition (online) or remain in the competition room (in-person finals), as advised by PSA staff on duty.

The following resources can be used and referred to during the competition (online or hard copy):

- APF
- AMH
- Self-care information
- Pen and paper

No use of mobile phones will be allowed during any of the heats and finals for the NAPSA Wildcards, State/Territory and National competitions. The cases are usually based around the PSA counselling guides, PSA guidance documents found in the APF and other resource material such as the PSA Self Care Fact Cards.

Only one student will be selected from each state/territory to compete in the National Final on Thursday 5 August 2027. Students who progress to the national final will be notified at the conclusion of the state final.

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PSOTY Assessment

Students competing in the NAPSA wildcards, state and national finals will be assessed on the following criteria:

Clinical Skills

- Identified patient and adequately gained insight into the patient's issues (e.g. age, medical conditions, other medicines)
- Made appropriate clinical recommendation(s)
- Provided additional management and advice (e.g. medication directions for use, lifestyle advice, follow on advice)
- Justified the reasons for their recommendations

Communication Skills

- Displayed appropriate non-verbal communication (e.g. presentation, interpersonal space, posture, nodding, smiling)
- Demonstrated active listening skills
- Spoke clearly, concisely and in a logical order
- Ensured adequate patient understanding of their recommendations

The case scenario will assess clinical knowledge taken from common scenarios seen with the pharmacy degree as well as emotional intelligence to demonstrate the students' ability to tailor their counselling based on the situation.

Information on National Finals

National Finals

State and NAPSA Wildcard winners will proceed to the national final which will be held at the ICC Sydney on Thursday 5 August 2027 in front of a live audience.

All state and NAPSA Wildcard finalists will receive an email from PSA, providing further details of the national final. Interstate travellers will receive a return flight and three nights' accommodation. All state and NAPSA Wildcard finalists will receive 1 complimentary day conference registration and 1 complimentary gala dinner ticket. Additional tickets to the conference and gala dinner are available to purchase *here.*

The winner of PSOTY will receive a prize voucher for a pharmacy specific education.

Key dates for 2027

NAPSA Wildcard competition registration opens	Monday 12 October 2026
NAPSA Wildcard competition registration closes	Friday 13 November 2026
NAPSA Wildcard Heat via zoom	Tuesday 1 December 2026
NAPSA Wildcard Final @NAPSA 2027 Congress	Friday 15 January 2027
Universities receive details of PSOTY state/territory competition	February 2027 – Date TBC
Universities to email finalist to PSA learner support	Friday 30 April 2027
State Finals held via zoom webinar	May 2027 – Date TBC
Announcement of the State finalists	May 2027 – Date TBC
Details of State finalists to online AP	May 2027 – Date TBC
Publication of Profiles of State finalists in online Australian Pharmacist	July 2027 AP edition
PSOTY National Final	Thursday 5 August 2027
Announcement of the Winner of PSOTY and the People's Choice award at Awards Ceremony	Thursday 5 August 2027
Publication of PSOTY Winner 2027 in online Australian Pharmacist	August 2027 AP edition

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PSA Awards 2027 terms and conditions

Entry into a PSA Award and acceptance of the prize is deemed acceptance of these conditions of entry.

1. Entry is only open to PSA Members, and employees (and their immediate families) of the Promoter are ineligible to enter.
2. Winners' names will be published on www.psa.org.au, and the PSA Social media channels. Each entrant consents, if the entrant becomes a Winner, to the Promoter using the entrant's name, in any media for an unlimited period of time without remuneration for the purpose of promoting this promotion (including any outcome), the Promoter and/or products/services supplied by the Promoter.
3. Prizes are to be used for pharmacy educational purposes, and will be administered by the PSA.
4. Travel (when included in the prize) will be via the most direct route, economy class.
5. Unless otherwise stipulated, no prize, or any unused portion of a prize, is transferable, exchangeable or redeemable for cash. Prize money must be used within 24 months.
6. If a prize (or part of any prize) is unavailable, the Promoter, in its discretion, reserves the right to substitute the prize (or that part of the prize) with an alternative prize to the equal value and/or specification, unless to do so would be prohibited by law.
7. To be eligible for these awards the nominee must be a PSA member in the nomination period. To be eligible to claim a prize, successful nominees must be PSA member at the time the prize is claimed.
   8. If for any reason whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the Promoter, the competition is not capable of being conducted as reasonably anticipated, the Promoter reserves the right, in its sole discretion, unless to do so would be prohibited by law, to (a) disqualify any entrant; and/or (b) to cancel, suspend, modify, terminate or cancel the award.
9. These conditions of entry do not, nor do they intend to, limit, exclude or modify any non-excludable statutory guarantee under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) (CCA) or any other warranties (whether express or implied) or terms under any state or federal legislation which cannot be excluded.
10. The Promoter (including its officer, employees and agents) excludes all liability whether arising in tort (including, without limitation, negligence), contract or otherwise for any personal injury or any other loss or damage (including without limitation loss of opportunity or loss of profits) whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising in any way out of the promotion, including, without limitation, the following:
    a) any technical difficulties or equipment malfunction (whether or not under the Promoter's control):
    b) any theft, unauthorised access or third party interference;
    c) any entry or prize claim that is late, lost altered, damaged or misdirected (whether or not after receipt by the Promoter) due to any reason beyond the reasonable control of the Promoter;
    d) any variation in prize value to that stated in these conditions of entry ;
    e) any tax implications; f. the cancellation or postponement of the Event; and/or g. a prize or use of a prize. Nothing in these terms affects the statutory rights of any person under The Australian Consumer Law or any other applicable law.
11. The Promoter collects personal information in order to conduct the competition and provide any goods/services requested and may, for that purpose, disclose such information to third parties, including, but not limited to, prize suppliers or a regulatory authority and for any purpose to which the entrant has previously consented, including but not limited to, future promotional, marketing and publicity purposes. Entrants should direct any request to access, update or correct information to the Promoter. All entries become the property of the Promoter. Please visit www.psa.org.au/site/privacy for a full privacy policy.
12. The Promoter is Pharmaceutical Society of Australia of Level 1, 25 Giles Court, Deakin ACT 2600, ABN 49 008 532 072. PSA Committed to better health

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