Monepantel reformulation successfully increases dose and improves taste

30 January 2018 – Perth, Australia: PharmAust Limited (ASX:PAA) has successfully identified a reformulation method that can be used to prepare monepantel for clinical trial.

In collaboration with BRI Pharmaceutical Research, PharmAust has shown that micronisation of monepantel successfully meets the company's minimal requirements for dosing, taste masking and oral bioavailability.

Micronisation refers to a milling technique that grinds monepantel into a fine powder that after further processing can then be packaged into capsules or tablets. Depending on the size of the capsule or tablet, this approach can deliver over 10 times more drug than the current formulation.

In terms of taste, studies in animals and humans have shown that dry powder monepantel is much more palatable than the liquid form of the drug. Further, micronised monepantel is amenable to a number of conventional taste-masking approaches that can further improve palatability.

BRI is currently optimising the micronisation method to identify the final formulation. Once established, the formulation will be scaled to produce sufficient drug for clinical trial. We anticipate completing the reformulation optimisation phase by Q1, 2018 with scaled production and toxicity studies to commence in dogs during Q2, 2018.

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About PharmAust (PAA):
PAA is a clinical-stage company developing targeted cancer therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are supported by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract synthetic drug manufacturer which generated Aus$3.05m in revenues in the 2017 FY

PAA's lead drug candidate is monepantel (MPL), a novel, potent and safe inhibitor of the mTOR pathway - a key driver of cancer. MPL has been evaluated in Phase 1 clinical trials in humans and dogs. MPL treatment was well-tolerated and produced a significant reduction in key prognostic biomarkers. PAA is uniquely positioned to commercialise MPL for treatment of human and veterinary cancers as it advances the drug into Phase 2 clinical trial.