

Board Communiqué – February 2024

Please read the highlights of key issues discussed at the RACP Board meeting on 16 February 2024. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss these matters further at president@racp.edu.au or our president-elect at president-elect@racp.edu.au

AMC/MCNZ Re-accreditation assessment in 2024

The AMC Re-accreditation submission and the CPD Homes Monitoring Submission have been delivered to the AMC/MCNZ as the first step in the re-accreditation process.

Digital and Technology capabilities

Our Training Management Platform (TMP) work is underway, and the current phase aims to deliver a clear view of the project roadmap, detailed requirements, release priorities and clearly defined assumptions.

Streamlining Governance

We have established a Board/Council Governance Advisory Group to provide advice, feedback and member insight to the Board on proposed options to optimise the College's Board Committee and Council structure with the aim to streamline committee governance and effective committee decision-making.

The Education Governance Review [Proposal](#) endorsed by the Education Governance Working Group (EGWG) for broad stakeholder consultation is available for member review along with a shorter [snapshot document](#) that provides an overview of the 3 options proposed.

Feedback about the Education Governance Review proposal can be provided via an [online feedback form](#) or via email to edi@racp.edu.au. Targeted consultation sessions are being held across February and March with a range of education and training committee members and other stakeholder groups. Please contact edi@racp.edu.au for any further information about the review or consultation opportunities

Advanced Training Curricula Renewal

Wave 3 of the Advanced Training Curriculum Renewal has started. Thank you to members who have joined a Curriculum Review Group or those who are working with the College to develop an initial draft of the curriculum. Your valued support will assist our future Advanced Trainees and patients.

Regional, Rural and Remote Physicians

Our Regional, Rural and Remote Physician Working Group are developing an implementation plan for our Regional, Rural and Remote Physician Strategy. The Working Group are consulting with the different teams across the College to confirm they will be able to take the actions required to implement the strategy.

Meeting with the Department of Health and Aged Care

President-Elect met with Department of Health and Aged Care, RACP Policy & Advocacy and the Dean to review our progress and actions against the National Medical Workforce Plan 2021-2031. Director of Medical Workforce Policy and Strategy, Valerie Ramsperger, complimented our cohesive data led team approach to addressing workforce issues. The College Dean was subsequently invited to an ad hoc out of session meeting of the Medical Workforce Advisory Committee leads held in Adelaide on 21 February. Minister Butler attended this meeting and advised that the next iteration of the Medical Workforce Advisory Committee will only have representation from 4 Specialty Colleges. The final make up of this new standing is yet to be announced.

The Dean met with Professor Sabina Knight who is leading the Working Better for Medicare Review. We reiterated our intent to be a positive contributor to workforce reform. We have separately requested a 1:1 stakeholder meeting with the consultancy agency managing the consultation.

Policy and Advocacy Updates

- A meeting was held with Minister Ryan Park MP NSW Health Minister, the Executive General Manager Policy & Advocacy, NSW Committee Chair and the President on 19 January 2024. Issues raised by RACP included accreditation of training sites, workforce shortages in regional, rural and remote areas, assessing international medical graduates, culture and wellbeing for physicians and trainees, and the NSW Drug Summit.

Min. Park was also interested in the children and the First 2000 days, Raise The Age (RTA), equity, drug policy and Health in All Policies (HiAP). Follow-up meetings and information sharing are underway.

We provided extensive follow-up information requested by the Minister on trainee issues, healthcare worker burnout, flexible training, OTP, STP, the NSW Drug Summit and the healthcare of children in care and protection services. We have also been referred to meet with the Deputy Secretary of Regional Health, Luke Sloane, to discuss regional health issues with Prof Nick Buckmaster.

- The College's submission to the Treasury's Budget consultation has been finalised. The submission will be used to promote key College funding and policy recommendations to the Australian Government over the next six months.
- The RACP 2023 Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable Report has been published following the very successful event at Parliament House, Canberra in June 2023. Policy changes have already resulted from this engagement.
- The RACP made a submission to the Australian Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry which underscores critical insights gained from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Two significant national health reforms regarding silicosis/dust diseases have been delivered, related to long-term advocacy and involvement of our expert members: the passing of legislation in Australia to establish a National Occupational Respiratory Diseases Registry;
 - the banning of the use of engineered stone in Australia after a meeting of the WHS Ministers. RACP members were featured strongly in subsequent media.

Scholarships

Five Indigenous Health Scholarships have been awarded for 2024: three Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; one Māori and one Pacific Islander (Aotearoa New Zealand); there were 44 recipients of 2024 RACP Foundation research awards with a total of 182 applicants for 2024. Congratulations to all recipients, we look forward to seeing you at our Congress events, Gala dinner and Ceremony.

We thank you all for dedication and valuable contribution to our College. All of the activities that we undertake with your contributions are extremely significant and important for our College. On behalf of the Board, please accept our thanks and acknowledgement for the dedication to our profession.