

Board Communiqué – July 2023

Please read the highlights of key issues discussed at the RACP Board meeting on 21 July 2023. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss these matters further at president@racp.edu.au. Dr Jacqueline Small, President and Chair RACP Board.

Strategic Matters

AMC

In late June the College received the AMC response to our April submission for education accreditation. The College has improved on all measures with the exception of standard 3, the Education Framework and the technology platform to replace Tracc. We remain committed to the acceleration and delivery of a technology solution to replace Tracc and support collaborative leadership to meet this challenge.

Accreditation Renewal

Network accreditation (Networks are a collection of metropolitan, rural or regional hospital sites that collaborate with the College in the coordination of physician training) will be introduced from September 2023, and we thank the three Basic Training networks in NSW participating in an initial rollout ahead of 2024. There is an opportunity through network accreditation and networked training for the College to increase rural training opportunities and encourage integrated training programs.

A mandatory reporting template in relation to the handling of bullying, harassment and discrimination will be introduced in later in 2023.

The College recently attended an AMC hosted workshop between the medical colleges and the jurisdictions. The workshop recognised the value of medical college accreditation programs and identified the need for collaborative communication between all parties. Our trainees have expressed an interest in playing an active role in accreditation processes and a number of initiatives to strengthen the trainees voice through accreditation processes have been developed.

College Strategic Opportunities & Threats

We held an initial session to discuss the changing external context that may impact our College, such as CPD Homes. We reflected on what we may be able to learn from our international peers, and will be continuing to consider these important issues.

CPD

We would like to extend our thanks to the CPD Committee and team for progressing a number of CPD initiatives for our members, including enhancing our content and resources. I look forward to providing an update on developments for our CPD offering and supporting lifelong learning later in the year.

Macquarie Street

The College headquarters at 145 Macquarie St is provisionally included in the program for Sydney Open 2023 where historic and interesting buildings across Sydney are open to the public on Sunday November 6. Further details of member access and promotions to connect with our 85th Year will be detailed once the Sydney Open Program is confirmed.

Overseas Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings in Australia

Ms Robyn Kruk AO has conducted an independent review of overseas health practitioner regulatory settings in Australia. The overarching objective was to recommend reforms to streamline regulatory settings to make it simpler, quicker, and cheaper for international health practitioners to work in Australia, while maintaining quality and safety standards. Some of the recommendations would affect the College's responsibility to assess overseas trained physicians (OTP). A response was submitted after consultation with the Chair of the OTP Committee. The College supported the objectives of the report and raised concerns with the short-term training pathway which is absent from the report. A final report will be issued by Ms Kruk following consultation and presentation to the National Cabinet.

Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable

The Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable was held at Parliament House on 21 June, co-hosted by the RACP and the Parliamentary Friends of Child and Adolescent Health and Mental Health Co-Chairs, Dr Mike Freeland MP, Dr David Gillespie MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP (all FRACP). Three (3) Ministers and more than ten (10) other Members of Parliament attended, including the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Linda Burney.

Switch off the Junk Campaign

The Switch off the Junk campaign, a mini-campaign sitting under the Kids Catch Up campaign, was launched on 19 June to call on the Australian Government to act on childhood obesity by dealing with rampant junk food advertising targeting children, especially online.

College Bodies

We approved a number of appointments to College Bodies. We thank all of our members for their commitment and dedication to our College.