

Board Communiqué – December 2023

Please read the highlights of key issues discussed at the RACP Board meeting on 15 December 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.

AMC/MCNZ Re-accreditation assessment in 2024

The College is actively working towards our re-accreditation assessment in May/June 2024. This is a very important issue for us all. Re-accreditation is performed by both the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) and includes accreditation of the College as a CPD Home. RACP has a number of key education and training projects underway that are relevant for accreditation, including the Training Management Platform, and hopefully will also improve experiences for Trainees and Fellows. These are currently top priorities for the College.

We have a number of meetings scheduled with the AMC in 2024 as part of the re-accreditation process and look forward to providing you with updates as we progress.

On behalf of the Board, I thank our ELA and Professional Practice teams and members involved in the progression of these matters.

Trainee Enquiries

We are prioritising trainee enquiry handling to improve the experience of our Trainees and response and resolution timeframes.

We have also received some suggestions from our College Trainees' Committee regarding the development of resources and initiatives to address unconscious bias. We look forward to progressing such matters in 2024.

CPD

Our Aotearoa President and EGM Professional Practice have explored MCNZ requirements for CPD general registrants (unaccredited trainees) and informed the MCNZ that we are supporting our cohort of trainees in Australia and inviting discussions about utilising our Framework for our Aotearoa cohort.

Budget 2024

We approved the Budget for 2024. There will be further communications regarding the strategic investments we have approved and how that will add to and improve your experience.

Sponsorship

We are looking to increase College sponsorships. A portal will soon be launched to allow for online payments by prospective sponsors. These funds are used to further support research awards.

Workforce

We have responded to the MBA consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as well as drafting a Regional, Rural and Remote Strategy Implementation Plan.

We await the outcome of these consultations which we appreciate are important for the RACP.

Member Offerings

We are currently improving members services in the fields of finance, education/software and health and wellbeing. We will be working with new, as well as existing, partners to enhance our revised Member Benefits Portal.

Policy & Advocacy

We have developed a submission to the Senate on the ADHD Inquiry as featured in the [Inquiry Report](#).

We are advocating for fit-for-purpose telehealth arrangements as part of the submission for the Medicare review into telehealth items.

We have sponsored the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) annual conference, presenting on RACP 'Deadly Doctors' network and self-determination. The conference was a huge success.

We have welcomed the forthcoming federal ban on engineered stone in an attempt to prevent silicosis and recognise the key part that RACP advocacy has played in this. Australia will be the first country in the world to implement such important safety measures.

Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment

We are firm in our commitment against bullying, discrimination and harassment and are progressing our work within this space for all our members. We are proactively working with our accredited training sites to develop plans to address these important issues and implement a better workplace environment. I look forward to providing further updates in 2024.

Faculty Presidents

We met with the Presidents of our three Faculties to discuss improving the quality and frequency of communication with the Board and other issues. Discussions are ongoing. We welcome increased interaction with our Faculties and greatly value their contribution to the College.

College and Fellowship Committee Awards 2024

Once again, we are honoured to endorse a number of College and Fellowship Committee awards for 2024. We acknowledge our recipients and thank you for your contribution for our healthcare system, the College and the health and wellbeing of our community. To see our recipients, please visit our website [here](#).

Membership Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

We are excited to announce the approval of our Diversity action plan, which marks the beginning of a journey to advance diversity and inclusion in all College activities and work towards a more inclusive culture.

State and Territory and Peak Bodies Update

We received an update on recent activities undertaken by the State and Territories Committees, College Council, Divisional and Faculty Councils, Fellowship Committee, College Trainees' Committee, College Journals Committee and the Consumer Advisory Group.

Board and College Council Strategy Day

The Board and College Council held a strategy day on 14 December. We considered principles underpinning the proposed future state of the Board and College Council roles and relationship with a focus on improving governance and prioritisation of activities providing member satisfaction. We reflected on factors impacting our College's operating environment that present opportunities for growth and how we may respond to strategic risks.

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 all of the work you undertake and your dedication to our profession.

Our Board hopes all the Fellows and members had a safe and happy holiday season. We hope that 2024 will be a productive and good year for all. We wish you all the best for 2024.