



**RACP**  
**Specialists. Together**  
EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

# POLICY & ADVOCACY REPORT

Report for quarter Q2 April to June 2022

*This report is valid until 30 September 2022*

## The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of over 20,000 physicians and almost 10,000 trainee physicians, across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The RACP represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, infectious diseases medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine, and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients and the community.

# Table of Contents

**POLICY & ADVOCACY REPORT .....1**

- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians..... 1
- Highlights ..... 3
- First Nations Health and Equity ..... 6
- Health reform ..... 7
- Climate and Justice ..... 9
- Populations in Focus.....10
- Aotearoa New Zealand.....13
- Regional advocacy .....13
- Submissions.....14
- Media and advocacy .....14
- Stakeholder meetings.....18
- Government relations .....19

*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Custodians and Elders – past, present and emerging – of the lands and waters on which RACP members and staff live, learn and work. The RACP acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.*



## Highlights



### Increasing Influence on Public Policy - Federal Election 2022

With the election of a new Australian Government, P&A has engaged with relevant Ministers, Shadow Ministers and key members of the Crossbench. Meetings were secured for the President with Minister for Health and Aged Care Min Butler, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Min

Kearney, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Rural and Regional Health Min McBride and the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Min McCarthy, as well as meetings with key crossbenchers. An 'Incoming Government Brief,' which highlighted synergies between the new government's election commitments and RACP policy priorities, was provided to key government members shortly after the election. In addition, College Fellows who are now Members of Parliament were personally congratulated on their election outcomes, and positive engagement continues.

The RACP Pre-Election [campaign](#) included a Pre-Election [Statement](#), and [information sheet](#), a [webpage](#), and a range of mechanisms for member support of our pre-election asks. The Statement called on political leaders to 'commit to healthcare' asking the government to commit to a suite of priorities that will deliver a quality, future-focused healthcare system for all.

The College's [Pre-Budget Submission](#) and the [Federal Election Statement](#) continue to serve as the basis for our advocacy work with the Labor Government, the Opposition and independents.



### Engaging Community to Drive Change – Kids COVID Catch-Up and Healthy Climate Future



Following the successful launch of the [Kids COVID Catch Up campaign](#) in February 2022, the campaign continued to generate positive media coverage and social media engagement. Hundreds of RACP members, other health professionals and parents have signed up to the campaign, and more than 100 of these supporters emailed

their political leaders, using the campaign's online tool, in the lead-up to the Federal election. In response to supporters' emails, The Hon Mark Butler MP, who is now the new Health Minister, committed to a rapid review of support for children with disability in schools. In addition, Labor committed

to improving mental health support in schools as part of a \$440 million package, which will also improve ventilation in schools. P&A continues the campaign at both the Federal and State levels.



The [Healthy Climate Future campaign](#) was endorsed by nine other medical colleges and met its pre-election objectives. The RACP's leadership in this space has also been recognised with the President being invited to address the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the AMA National Conference about this

work of the College. The campaign generated regional media coverage and high social media engagement. We have received positive feedback on the RACP's leadership on this issue from other colleges involved in the campaign. There is strong interest from the supportive colleges continuing to collaborate together on the campaign, following the outcome at the Federal Election. P&A is also planning to continue the campaign at state levels and is in the process of developing a stand-alone campaign website, which will allow members and other health professionals to take action online in support of the campaign.

## Equipping Members for Advocacy

### Advocacy for Physicians e-resource

The '[Advocacy for Physicians](#)' e-resource was launched by RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small during RACP Congress in May. The launch took place during a well-attended workshop, which included addresses by Dr Small and Young Australian of the Year and RACP trainee, Dr Daniel Nour founder of Street Side Medics. The e-resource features prominently in RACP Learning and is being promoted to members via member EDMs, social media, and personalised emails to members who will likely find the resource of interest.

### Congress P&A sessions

P&A successfully conducted four sessions, two of which had the highest rates of Congress attendance compared to all sessions:

1. Next steps in Closing the Gap
2. Evolve: Digital health and low-value care. Opportunities and limitations
3. Tired of COVID? Aren't we all. Navigating ethical tensions during a pandemic
4. Workshop: Making change happen: Advocacy & campaigning workshop

These sessions included Close the Gap Next Steps which allowed for the RACP to closely collaborate with leading First Nations strategic partners NACCHO and AIDA. As the Congress was held in Victoria the local peak body VACCHO was invited to join us with our messaging.

Other high level internal and external speakers and panel members participated at the sessions. New advocacy materials were developed and provided to the Congress Operations Committee. A new P&A Congress guide has been prepared to support P&A input to future Congress.

# 2022-2026 CPAC Plan

The infographic for the 2022-2026 CPAC Plan is titled "2022-2026 CPAC Plan College Policy and Advocacy Council". It features a central circular diagram with four quadrants: "OUR APPROACH" (top), "OUR VISION" (left), "OUR LENS - THE QUADRUPLE AIM" (right), and "OUR APPROACH" (bottom). The "OUR APPROACH" quadrant lists six points: 1. Increase influence on public policy, 2. Equip members for advocacy, 3. Engage the community to drive change, 4. Prioritise patients and carers experiences, 5. Build quality and culturally safe ways of working, and 6. Evaluate impact to inform advocacy. The "OUR VISION" quadrant states: "To be a leading voice for better health and wellbeing for all, advocating for the population, better health systems, and the profession." The "OUR LENS - THE QUADRUPLE AIM" quadrant lists: 1. Provider Satisfaction, 2. Efficiency and effectiveness of care, 3. Better and more equitable population health, and 4. Improved patient experience. The "OUR APPROACH" quadrant at the bottom lists four key areas: "First Nations Health and Equity", "Health Reform", "Climate and Justice", and "Populations in Focus". Each area has a brief description of its focus. The infographic also includes the RACP logo and the tagline "Specialists. Together. Better. Health. Australia." and a list of "PROVISIONS" at the bottom left.

The 2022 - 2026 College Policy and Advocacy Council (CPAC) Plan was approved by the Board in March 2022, and implementation commenced in April 2022. The Plan represents a significant evolution in the College’s approach to policy and advocacy, with an increased focus on government relations, media, member, community and stakeholder engagement and evaluation activities. It focuses activities on four key areas: First Nations health and equity, health reform and integration, climate change and

justice, and populations in focus. It is expected that this approach will significantly strengthen the College’s advocacy.

## Evaluating Impact to Inform Advocacy

In April the College Policy and Advocacy Council approved the implementation plan to commence implementation of the Policy and Advocacy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This involves three key activities:

1. Preparedness and capacity building for implementing the M&E Framework, including developing the data collection framework and tools that will support evaluation of policy and advocacy activities.
2. First pilot project: Evaluating work in progress – evaluation of the Kids COVID Catch Up Campaign.
3. Second pilot project: Embedding monitoring and evaluation in a new policy development process.

# First Nations Health and Equity

## Indigenous Strategic Framework

P&A has coordinated delivery of the Indigenous Strategic Framework in collaboration with other teams. P&A activities for this quarter include:

- Priority 1:** Contributing to addressing Indigenous health inequities
- The ACT committed to increasing the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years.
  - Media calling on governments to raise the age
  - Inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health key asks in the March 2022 RACP Australian Federal Election Submission
- Priority 3:** Educating and equipping the physician workforce on Indigenous health and culturally safe clinical practice
- A session was held at RACP Congress 2022 on *Next Steps in Closing the Gap*. This was co-hosted with NACCHO and AIDA
- Priority 4:** Fostering a culturally safe and competent College
- Relationships with NACCHO and AIDA have been strengthened through renewed engagement
  - RACP provided silver sponsorship of the AIDA 2022 conference at which the President RACP and Dr Elkie Hull will be speaking
  - RACP sponsored the Closing the Gap campaign
  - RACP continues to be a member of the Steering Group of the Raise the Age Campaign
  - All RACP policy and advocacy documents (submissions, position statements etc) now include an acknowledgement of Country and the Indigenous visual elements.
  - The Manager Indigenous Strategy organized several events and learning experiences as part of Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week that staff have participated in.

## AFPHM Webinar Series May 2021

P&A supported engagement with peak Aboriginal Health bodies on the National Agreement and priority reforms areas as they relate to public health, presented by Dr Dawn Casey PSM FAHA, Deputy CEO NACCHO and Dr Karen Nicholls, Trainee Support Lead, AIDA.



## Health reform

### MBS telehealth reform

- The College continued its advocacy for the retainment and restoration of MBS specialist phone items via media releases, media coverage and meetings with key government stakeholders.
- We made a submission to the Medical Board of Australia on its draft revised Guidelines for Telehealth consultations with patients.

### Integrated care and system reform

- The new Health Reform Working Group's Terms of Reference were developed and will guide the establishment of the Working Group in August. The Working Group will guide health reform priorities in policy and advocacy.
- Since the election in May 2022, we have advocated with Minister Butler and his Department via meetings and briefings for our inclusion in the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce and related initiatives to ensure integration of primary and specialist care.
- P&A met with the Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association (AHHA) to discuss policy priorities of interest to the two organisations such as the AHHA Health Reform Blueprint, workforce, funding reform and integrated and data-driven models of care. Further discussions are planned for the second half of the year.

### Public health and prevention

- Since the Government committed to establishing an Australian Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDC-P) to improve pandemic preparedness and response, the College expressed its interest in contributing to the project in its briefings to Minister Butler, as well as initiated preliminary discussions with relevant College bodies and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) about the potential model.

## EVOLVE

Evolve is a flagship initiative led by physicians, specialties and the College to drive high-value, high-quality care in Australia and New Zealand.

### Evolve Strategy Update

The draft Evolve Strategy 2022-2026 was developed by the Evolve Implementation Lead, informed by literature on the drivers of low-value care and associated interventions that may support the reduction of low-value care. It was presented to the College Policy and Advocacy Council and circulated for consultation that will inform the next iteration of the Strategy and the Evolve Strategy Implementation Plan.

The draft Strategy presents the core streams of work for Evolve:

- recommendation development and revision
- recommendation dissemination and
- monitoring and evaluation.

The Strategy is underpinned by the leadership and involvement of RACP Members, Divisions, Chapters, Faculties and Specialty Societies.

### New Evolve Recommendations:

The College launched the latest Evolve recommendations in the area of Blood Transfusion. The list received media coverage and was promoted and disseminated to key internal and external stakeholders.





# Climate and Justice

## Climate change and health

In addition to rolling out the Healthy Climate Future Campaign, the College also responded to several endorsement requests on climate change, including:

- Letter drafted by Healthy Futures on renewable energy
- RANZCO's How Colleges Face a Sustainable Future Research Project
- Comms Declare and The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) open letter
- NSW Rural Doctors Network's Advocacy Letter

The Chair of the Climate Change Research Project Advisory Committee Prof Lynne Madden also presented on the Healthy Climate Future Campaign at the Australian Health Educators Conference. Veronica Le Nevez, General Manager Policy and Advocacy also presented on the campaign to Climate and Health Alliance Members (the RACP is also a member of the Alliance and has collaborated with CAHA on a number of projects). CPAC also approved the establishment of a climate change and health working group to lead the updating of the three climate change and health position statements.

## Youth justice

### Raise the Age Letter to Federal Attorney General and relevant Ministers

In June 2022, the RACP joined 81 other organisations in signing a letter to the Federal Attorney-General and several Federal government Ministers. The letter from members of the national Raise the Age alliance, encouraged the Federal Government to show leadership in working with State and Territory governments to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years.

The letter sought a commitment from the new Federal Government to lead a process with States and Territories to raise the age. Both the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Linda Burney and the Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus have committed to working with states and territories to achieve reform.



The RACP @TheRACP · Jun 6

Yesterday was #WorldEnvironmentDay and we're reiterating our calls for national climate and health strategy that includes a plan to get healthcare system emissions to net zero.

FIND OUT MORE: [racp.edu.au/climatefuture](https://racp.edu.au/climatefuture)

@Mark\_Butler\_MP @BowenChris @tanya\_piibersek @jennymcallister



This image is authorised by Peter McIntyre, CEO, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW, 2000

You Retweeted



Marcus Stewart  
@marcusbstewart

Children belong in schools and homes, not prisons. Doctors have joined Community and legal & human rights groups calling on governments to #RaiseTheAge of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14. [@TheRACP](#) [@Change\\_Record](#)



ladbible.com

Doctors Call To Raise Age Of Criminal Responsibility To 14 In Australia

Doctors say 'more' needs to be done to better protect the future and mental health of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander children

*Tweet from RACP member sharing media content on Raise the Age*

The letter was sent to Mark Dreyfus, Linda Burney and Dr Anne Aly, MP, Minister for Youth and Minister for Early Childhood Education.

## Populations in Focus



### Worker Health

#### Accelerated silicosis/Dust diseases

Recent P&A activities have included:

- Successful engagement with the Department of Health - consideration of reforms to MBS items; advocacy for College member input to National Dust Diseases Taskforce recommended reforms
- College representatives continued to participate in external committees formed to drive Taskforce recommendations: National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry; National Silicosis Prevention Strategy and accompanying National Action Plan
- Provided input and met with KPMG on their early development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- NSW Committee report on the review of Dust Diseases was released in June and supported the College's key asks (response to February submission to Public Hearing)
- Wrote to ACT Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations congratulating the release of the Silica Dust Reforms Action Plan for 2022 and promoting AFOEM engagement in reforms (reply received July 2022)
- Requested a meeting with Worksafe New Zealand to discuss progression of Dust Diseases related reforms in AoNZ
- Active engagement with national media: Dr Graeme Edwards promoted the Taskforce and AFOEM-RACP positions urging action on this silicosis epidemic through ABC radio and news
- Responded to social media opportunities: ACT Government release of the Silica Dust Reforms Action Plan for 2022

## It Pays to Care

Advocacy work leading the call to improve the health and recovery outcomes for people who experience a work injury, including reducing barriers to care.

Two major virtual launches were organised and completed 27 and 29 April for Australia and AoNZ. Australia: Registrations 260 (members 156; non-members 104); attendees: 126. Aotearoa NZ: Registrations 183 (members 68, non-members 115); attendees: 77.

P&A led activities included:

- Publication and dissemination of two key policy documents
- Establishment of a new webpage (second quarter statistics: 1,183 views; 944 unique views), which includes recordings of the launch events
- News item prepared for RACP webpage
- Drafting and release of social media promotion
- Coordination of a launch presentation at Congress 2022
- Conducted post launch survey designed to assist with targeting ongoing advocacy
- Completion of the It pays to Care advocacy plan

## Child Health

- P&A EGM presented to a cross-sector group of NSW and National not for profits, hosted by the NSW Council for Social Services (NCOSS), on College policy and advocacy matters, as well as the Kids COVID Catch Up campaign.
- The College endorsed Thrive by Five – an initiative which brings together researchers, families, educators and concerned citizens in a movement to create systems change in early childhood. Governance and oversight of ongoing activities has been delegated to PPAC.



With the Federal Election fast approaching, we need your help to convince political leaders to commit to helping our [#KidsCatchUp](#) from [#COVID19Au](#) setbacks. Use our easy online tool that to send a message to your local Member of Parliament. ACT NOW: [kidscatchup.org.au/email-leaders](https://kidscatchup.org.au/email-leaders)



## Disability

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) convened a second meeting with the RACP in June 2022 to discuss the design of the new person-centred model in place of independent assessments. Dr Jennifer Mann (AFRM) and Dr Robert Leitner (PCHD) attended this meeting with College staff. RACP representatives will be sought to join the Professional Advisory Panel (PAP) once EOI is received from the NDIA.

## Addiction Medicine

The College issued a media release [Physicians and paediatricians say rise in youth vaping is seriously concerning – calls for urgent strengthening of importation laws.](#)

The AChAM President, Professor Adrian Dunlop and the NSW/ACT Regional Committee Chair, Dr Adrian Lee, wrote to the NSW Premier and relevant ministers calling on the NSW Government to urgently issue its response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug ‘Ice’ Final Report. The AChAM led a submission to the WA Parliament’s *Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities* and joined a review of the Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists’ [Position Statement on Problem Gambling.](#)

## Sexual Health

The RACP President approved an AChSHM recommendation to support and be involved in the updating of the [Evidence-based Guideline for Assessment and Management of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome 2018 \(2018 Guideline\)](#) that is being coordinated by the [Centre for Research Excellence in Women’s Health in Reproductive Life.](#)

The New Zealand Sexual Health Society notified that the Aotearoa New Zealand Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) guidelines for primary care were updated in conjunction with ASHM (Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine), and can be found at a dedicated website: [www.sti.guidelines.org.nz/](http://www.sti.guidelines.org.nz/).

## Palliative Medicine

Social media posts were completed for National Palliative Care Week in May: LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter.

## COVID-19

The RACP COVID-19 Living Narrative was developed in late 2021 to document the College’s activities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. An updated version of the Living Narrative has been developed and provides updates on the College’s policy and advocacy activities up until May 2022. This updated version is now available on the [RACP website.](#)

## Policy activities

Work is underway with the following policy documents:

- Revision and expansion of the Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services Position Statement
- Revision of the Circumcision in Infant Males Position Statement
- Forming a working group to develop a new Youth Appropriate Health Care Position Statement
- Development of a new Bariatric Rehabilitation Position Statement
- Development of a new Drug Policy

## Aotearoa New Zealand

In March 2022, the RACP presented to the NZ Parliament Select Committee on Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System and Children and Young People's Commission.

In April 2022, the RACP provided a submission to Medsafe on the proposal for warning and advisory statements relating to harm of opioid abuse, misuse and dependence

In May 2022, several of the RACP's recommended additions and amendments to the [Pae Ora \(Healthy Futures\) Bill](#) are visible in the Legislation Committee's report to the House of Representatives, including collaborative action on the social determinants of health, and greater reference to climate change.

## Regional advocacy

Between April and June the regional committees welcomed new committee membership, and in five cases new regional committee chairs. Advocacy in this period included:

- Rural/remote advocacy across regions, e.g. call for increased phone/video consultations to promote equity and access when face to face consultations are not available
- Climate change and health advocacy, e.g. opposition to electricity disconnections in remote Indigenous communities with COVID lockdowns
- Welcomed Commonwealth increased support for GPs and allied healthcare workers in regional areas, but called for better access to to specialists through STP expansion
- Youth justice:
  - Closure of Don Dale Youth Justice Centre
  - Use of spit hoods and other physical restraints
  - Government's response to Don Dale Royal Commission
  - Alternatives to criminal justice responses for undesirable youth conduct.
  - Increase in number of children in detention (especially Indigenous children)
- NT advocacy for appropriate consultation with physicians about NT hospital reform
- Call for increased school supports for schoolchildren with a disability, following reports that that 1 in 3 students who were expelled in the first year of the pandemic in Victoria had a disability
- QLD advocacy for:
  - measures to improve physician wellbeing
  - raising the age of criminal responsibility
  - appropriate physician perspectives needed before to pharmacy prescribing expansion
- SA election-related advocacy for:
  - Fostering a culture of wellbeing for physicians and trainee physicians
  - Eliminating bullying and harassment
  - Advancing gender equity
  - Doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic
  - Supporting the specialist workforce to meet current and future healthcare needs

- SA advocacy in support of Trainees' Committee concerns about hospital/health system culture and wellbeing
- NSW support for Statewide Initiative for Diabetes Management, promotion of RACP's Model of Chronic Care Management
- NSW call for urgent NSW Government response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice'.

## Submissions

- [RACP submission to the Ministry of Health on the Warning and advisory statement for opioids](#)
- [RACP submission to the Ministry of Health: Amendments to the schedule of the Medicines \(Designated Pharmacist Prescribers\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [RACP submission to Ministry of Education on promotion and provision of healthy drinks in schools](#)
- Submission to Medical Board of Australia's Draft revised Guidelines for Telehealth consultations with patients (confidential)
- Submission to ANZCA's PS09 Guideline on procedural sedation (confidential)

Consultations and submissions were lower over this period and are likely to also be in the next quarter due to the election and change of government.

## Media and advocacy

### June

- ['A backwards step for healthcare' – Physicians disappointed some specialist phone telehealth items will not be made permanent](#) | 30 June 2022
- ['The clock has run out' - Physicians urge government to keep specialist telehealth a permanent feature of healthcare past today's deadline](#) | 30 June 2022
- [Physicians and paediatricians say rise in youth vaping is seriously concerning – calls for urgent strengthening of importation laws](#) | 29 June 2022
- [Physicians extremely disappointed that NSW Government continues to avoid Ice Inquiry response](#) | 28 June 2022
- AI could reduce errors – The Examiner, 23 June 2022 (IMJ editorial advocacy)
- RACP pushing for extension of Telehealth – ABC News mention, 23 June 2022
- ["Don't cut them off" - Physicians urge government to maintain specialist phone telehealth items to address healthcare inequities](#) | 22 June 2022

- [New study says artificial intelligence could reduce diagnostic error](#) | 22 June 2022
- [Specialist opioid support – Ballarat Courier](#), 17 Jun 2022 (print only)
- [As Australia records worst May on record for flu cases, COVID-19 infections plateau](#) – SBS News, 12 Jun 2022
- [Virus deaths mount amid hospitals crisis](#) – Newcastle Herald, 11 June 2022
  - o Syndicated to regional papers such as the Wangaratta Chronicle and The Border Mail
- [Victoria to give \\$3,000 bonus payments to public healthcare workers, but no extra cash for private staff](#) – SBS News, 9 June 2022
- [What will it take to achieve a healthy climate? Dr Jacqueline Small opinion piece](#), Croakey, 8 June
- [Govt to Raise Minimum Age of Detention, Not Criminal Responsibility](#) – Tasmanian Times, 8 June 2022
- [Radio interview on the workforce crisis](#) – 2CC Canberra, 7 June 2022
- [RACP President Available to Comment on NSW Healthcare Reform](#) | 3 June 2022
- [Radio grabs on NSW Premier’s commitment to healthcare reform](#) – 2SM, 3 June 2022
- [Physicians congratulate Minister Butler, eager to see investment in healthcare priorities](#) | 1 June 2022
- [Burnout of healthcare workers top priority, says new head of physicians’ college](#) – The Age, 1 June 2022

## Burnout of healthcare workers top priority, says new head of physicians’ college

By [Melissa Cunningham](#)  
June 1, 2022 – 3:53pm

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The newly elected president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has warned that pandemic-fuelled burnout in healthcare workers is a crisis demanding urgent action as the country heads into winter.

In her first interview since being appointed in May, Dr Jacqueline Small called for the wellbeing of Australia’s healthcare workers to be the top priority as the nation’s healthcare system grapples with the combination of rising flu and coronavirus cases, delayed medical care, and severe staff shortages.



Royal Australasian College of Physicians President Jacqueline Small. JAKE BARRETT

### KEY POINTS

- New physicians chief says governments must address healthcare worker wellbeing crisis.
- Mounting healthcare worker surveys indicate the vast majority of staff are experiencing concerning levels of burnout.
- Health system is battling a perfect storm of rising flu cases, coronavirus, delayed medical care and severe staffing shortages.
- The Age has been told of doctors working a month without a day off. Other workers have been told to delay their leave as there is no staff to cover.



## May

- [Dr Graeme Edwards on ABC TV Brisbane regarding silicosis](#) – 30 May 2022
- [College welcomes new Federal Government](#) | 27 May 2022

- [Dr Graeme Edwards on ABC RN Breakfast regarding silicosis – 27 May 2022](#)
- [Border cancer patient says telehealth is 'the only way to go' moving forward – The Border Mail, 25 May 2022](#)

## Border cancer patient says telehealth is 'the only way to go' moving forward



By Caroline Tung

Updated May 25 2022 at 6:45pm, first published 6:00pm

0 Comments



WORTH IT: Mariel Anderson, 81, of Tawonga South, said it would be a step backwards for telehealth consultations to be struck off the Medicare Benefits Schedule after June 30. Picture: MARK JESSER

- [Geelong flu cases surging as Covid pressure continues – Geelong Advertiser, 21 May 2022](#)
- [Kids COVID Catch Up: COVID-19 has been a dirty word this election campaign — but health experts say its impact isn't going away – ABC News, 20 May 2022](#)
- [Kids COVID Catch Up: ABC Radio Brisbane Breakfast interview on Dept. of Education learning trajectory data – 18 May 2022](#)
- [RACP calls on State and Territory Governments to immediately raise the age of criminal responsibility | 18 May 2022](#)
- [Kids COVID Catch Up: 2SM Radio grabs on Dept. of Education learning trajectory data – 17 May 2022](#)
- [Paediatricians concerned over new data showing student setback | 17 May 2022](#)
- [Paediatricians say kids have fallen behind – taskforce and Chief Paediatrician needed to address setbacks | 16 May 2022](#)
- [Media Statement - Workforce Burnout | 12 May 2022](#)
- [Physicians and paediatricians want a plan for a greener health system | 11 May 2022](#)
- [Physicians call for program to keep regional and remote communities connected to digital healthcare | 11 May 2022](#)
- [Physicians and paediatricians unite to tackle gender equity: RACP Congress 2022 | 11 May 2022](#)
- [Indigenous physicians say we must do better to Close the Gap on Indigenous health | 10 May 2022](#)
- [“We must now take the lead” – Sustainable healthcare is vital for action on climate change | 9 May 2022](#)



- [RACP backs universities' call for 1000 student doctors, but says more is needed](#) | 5 May 2022
- [Regional shortages: Physicians and paediatricians call for increase in regional places to address shortages](#) | 3 May 2022
- [The Election Wrap: focus on accountability and why the next Health Minister has a long to-do list – Croakey](#), | 4 May 2022

## April

- [The Election Wrap \(part three\) – Croakey](#), 27 April 2022
- [The Election Wrap \(part two\) – Croakey](#), 20 Apr 2022
- [Paediatricians devastated by new figures showing 1 in 3 expelled students have a disability, say additional support needed](#) | 12 April 2022
- Interview by John Wilson on Victorian expulsions of children with disability – ABC News, 12 Apr 2022
- [Part four: wrapping reaction to the Federal Budget – Croakey](#), 6 Apr 2022
- Ten doctors issue climate prescription – Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, 5 Apr 2022

### Ten doctors issue climate prescription

TEN medical colleges, representing more than 100,000 doctors write this letter to political leaders, calling for a climate ready and climate friendly healthcare system.

To Australia's federal political leaders, Climate change is a major risk to our healthcare system. We are a broad group of doctors and physicians.

We're seeing the impacts of climate change on health first-hand, supporting our communities in the aftermath of horrific bushfires and devastating floods.

We're also seeing the impacts of extreme heat, particularly on older people.

Paediatricians and obstetricians are concerned about how climate change will affect the lives of their young patients as they grow.

GPs and psychiatrists are witnessing the mental health impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on people of all ages.

And specialist physicians across the country are bracing for an onslaught of illness caused by the impacts of climate change.

The recent floods in NSW and Queensland, unprecedented in magnitude in living memory, demonstrate why we must act now to reduce the devastating impacts of severe weather events.

We are calling on federal political leaders to commit to action to build the resilience of our healthcare system to the impacts of climate change.

At the same time, we want to play our part in the solutions. We're advocating for support to ensure the healthcare system can reduce its own climate footprint.

We need a healthcare system that is both climate ready and climate friendly.

In the lead up to the federal election, we are calling on all parties and candidates to commit to ensuring our healthcare system is:

**Climate ready**

Create and fund a National Climate Change and Health Strategy that will enable our healthcare system to build climate resilience, including:

- a. development of climate risk and vulnerability assessments and locally led disaster planning for the healthcare system;
- b. acknowledging that rural and remote communities are at particular risk; adaptation and resilience plans which acknowledge, support, and are guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership;
- c. equipping health and medical professionals with information, tools and resources to support them to anticipate, prepare for and respond to climate risks;
- d. establishment of a surge health and medical workforce for deployment in response to extreme weather events;
- e. being informed by the experience of COVID-19 and the limitations and vulnerabilities of the health system to significant shocks.

Create and fund a National Climate Change and Health Sustainability Unit to oversee the implementation of the Strategy.

Invest in a national Climate Change and Health Resilience Research Fund to identify resilience strategies suited to our health system.

**Climate friendly**

Establish a Climate Friendly Health System Innovation Fund to provide grants to local health services for emissions reduction and sustainability initiatives.

Include a plan for equitably decarbonising healthcare, to achieve net zero emissions in healthcare by 2040 in a funded National Climate Change and Health Strategy.

In developing climate change adaptation and resilience plans, we must learn from First Peoples who have built up thousands of years of accumulated knowledge on how to live sustainably in the unique Australian landscape.

Indigenous cultural knowledge and leadership will strengthen our response to climate change and avoid harmful unintended consequences on communities that face existing health inequities.

In addition, we join many others, including the business community, farmers and community groups, in calling for an urgent transition to net-zero emissions across all economic sectors to address the underlying causes of climate change, with support to affected communities.

**The Royal Australasian College of Physicians president Professor John Wilson AM, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine president Dr Clare Skinner, Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians president Dr Mark Fulcher, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists president Dr Vanessa Beavis, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Karen Price, The College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand president Dr Mary Pinder, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons president Dr Sally Langley, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists president Dr Benjamin Bopp, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists president Professor Nitin Verma AM, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists president Associate Professor Vinay Lakra**

- [Revealed: Risky parental gambling affects 200,000 Australian kids – SMH](#), 3 Apr 2022 o  
Syndicated to the [Brisbane Times](#), [The Age](#), and [WAtoday](#)

## Revealed: Risky parental gambling affects 200,000 Australian kids



By Caitlin Fitzsimmons  
April 3, 2022 – 8:00am

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Nearly 200,000 Australian children under the age of 15 live in families where their parents engage in risky gambling, including nearly 60,000 who are exposed to the most severe problem gambling.

That's the finding of a landmark study by researchers at the Australian National University, which found nearly 4 per cent of Australian children have parents who are moderate-risk or problem gamblers.



- [Federal Budget stops short of delivering key reforms needed in healthcare](#) | 1 April 2022

There was more media than usual over the last quarter in the lead up to the Federal Election.

## Stakeholder meetings

- 5 April: AHHA A/CEO Kylie Woolcock
- 6 April: Lauren Henriks A/Assistant Secretary Mental Health Services Branch
- 13 April: Jay Weatherill, Thrive by 5
- 28 April: NPS Medicinewise
- 3 May: ACOSS COVID Health Equity Forum
- 26 May: Khaled Chakli, Director of Leadership and Advocacy, Australasian Institute of Digital Health
- 2 June: RANZCP - Nicola Wright, Manager of Policy and Practice & Prof Valsa Eapen, Chair of RANZCP Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- 3 June: Australian Digital Health Agency
- 6 June: NDIA
- 8 June: NACCHO – Dr Jason Agostino, Dr Kate Armstrong
- 10 June: National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds
- 10 June: Dr Kate Charlesworth, NSW Health/Medical Colleges Climate Risk Roundtable

- 15 June: ACOSS/UNSW Sydney Poverty and Inequality Partnership
- 17 June: Climate and Health Alliance
- VACCHO & RACP pre congress chat

## Government relations

- 4 April: The Hon Graham Perrett MP (Shadow Assistant Minister for Education) & advisor Michelle Howe
- 9 May: Emma Davidson MP ACT
- 16 June: Dr Mike Freeland MP
- The Hon Yvette D'Ath, Queensland Minister for Health meeting

### P&A TEAM

For more information, contact the Policy and Advocacy Team

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