

# POLICY & ADVOCACY REPORT

Report for quarter Q4 October to December 2022

*This report is valid until end of December 2022*

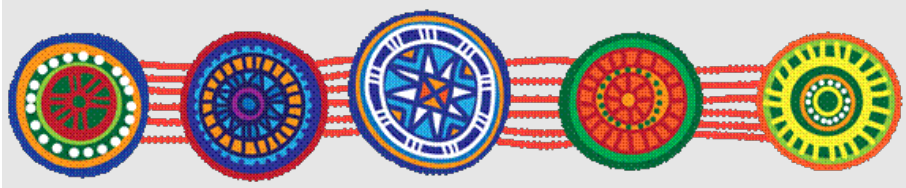
## The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

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.

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*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

- The joint meeting of the Māori Health Committee, the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health Committee and the RACP Board was held in Aotearoa on November 17, 2022. The meeting was attended in person by multiple members of both First Nations committees and Board members. It was held at Waiwhetū Marae, thanks to the connections of Kaitohutohu Ahurea Veronica Thompson. Cultural protocols were upheld throughout the meeting, setting the scene for a productive discussion on furthering the addition of an Indigenous Object to the RACP Constitution. On the day following the meeting, a tour of Te Papa by a Māori guide, focussed on Māori health and medicine, was arranged for Committee members.
- Following extensive advocacy on climate change and health, through the [Healthy Climate Future campaign](#), the PRACP has been invited to sit on the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Group for the National Climate, Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy is a key ask of the Healthy Climate Future campaign and the Health Minister has publicly acknowledged the RACP's advocacy in securing the Strategy.
- On the 2 November the College Policy and Advocacy Council (CPAC) met for their second meeting of 2022. It was a well-attended meeting and covered a range of topics including, presentations on the Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services Position Statement, on workforce and health reform, on the College's climate change and health advocacy, and on the successful attendance and participation at the recent AIDA Conference 2022. CPAC members were also provided updates on progress against the CPAC annual work plan and the implementation of the P&A Monitoring & Evaluation Framework, as well as reports from P&A College bodies; the AFPHM Committee, the AChSHM Committee and the VIC Regional Committee. A full CPAC Communique will be released soon with more detail.

## First Nations Health and Equity

- In late November, the RACP led an open letter, which was signed by other medical colleges, calling for the release of the Attorney Generals' report into raising the age of criminal responsibility. The letter received prominent media coverage. Following this, the Independent Member for Curtin in WA (Kate Chaney) asked a question in Parliament about the report's release. In the response, Commonwealth Attorney General Mark Dreyfus replied that he has asked for the release of the report to be put on the agenda of the next Standing Council of Attorney Generals meeting in December, for decision. Our letter helped to add weight to a Four Corners story and we played a part in this important development.



## Kids COVID Catch Up and Healthy Climate Future

- Ahead of the November Victorian Election, state-level campaign asks were developed with the Victorian Regional Committee. The Committee Chair and P&A met with senior public servants in Victoria, including the Chief Health Officer, regarding these asks and other matters in the Victorian Election Statement.
- Members of the Paediatric and Child Health Division, working in Victoria, were surveyed to seek their views on the Kids COVID Catch Up Victorian policy asks and explore how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their work and their patients. Over 100 Victorian paediatricians completed the survey.
- Online platforms to support members to take advocacy action by emailing political leaders in Victoria were developed. The actions were promoted across member communications platforms.

## Health reform

### Federal Budget: Key advocacy wins for the College and Australians

- The [College's Pre-Budget Submission to the Australian Treasury](#)<sup>1</sup> called on the Australian Government to prioritise measures relevant to delivering and enhancing its commitments to move us towards a sustainable, resilient and future-focused health system for all Australians. The [Budget delivered by the Australian Treasurer on Tuesday 25 October 2022](#)<sup>2</sup> adopted many recommendations the College has been advocating for. This [Federal Budget Summary](#)<sup>3</sup> provides a high-level overview of wins in key advocacy areas.
- While the RACP welcomed the delivery of several election commitments in the October Budget, it also indicated that the Budget falls short of what is required to protect public healthcare in the evolving crisis.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.racp.edu.au/news-and-events/all-news/news-details?id=b730afaf-bbb2-61c2-b08b-ff01001c3177>

<sup>2</sup> <https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/documents.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/federal-budget-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=57c1ce1a\\_4](https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/federal-budget-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=57c1ce1a_4)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.racp.edu.au/news-and-events/media-releases/wellbeing-budget-welcome-but-falls-short-of-intervention-to-halt-health-crisis>

- The College continues to engage constructively with the Australian Government in the lead up to the May 2023 Budget. We are advocating strongly for:
  - effective measures to address health worker burnout and workforce shortages
  - system reforms to support equity of access for underserved patients
  - investing in innovative models of care
  - putting prevention centre stage to deliver better health outcomes for Australians and reduce the burden on the system.

### **Review of the National Medicines Policy**

- The College continued to engage in the review of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care’s National Medicines Policy (NMP). In October, the College made its third submission<sup>5</sup> to inform the NMP Review which focuses on three important areas that the revised NMP needs to adequately address to be effective: (1) governance, accountability, evaluation and resourcing; (2) improving pathways to allow equitable access to needed treatments for all Australians and (3) embedding relevant specialist advice throughout the NMP process.

### **Advocacy for Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) in Western Australia**

- The College recently joined a coalition of other medical colleges, peak bodies and consumer advocacy groups calling on the WA Government to introduce an MUP for cheap drinks with high alcohol content. This is expected to result in the presentation and tabling of a consensus position to the Parliament of WA. We continue to collate and appraise the evidence base for MUP and other alcohol harm minimisation strategies to support their extension to across jurisdictions.



### **Advocacy to restrict junk food and sugary drink advertising to children**

- As a leading member of the Obesity Policy Coalition, the College has worked closely with Independent Federal MP Dr Sophie Scamps FRACGP, to prepare the groundwork for a future private member’s bill restricting junk food and sugary drink advertising to children. We produced a discussion paper comparing international regulatory regimes and reviewing the evidence base for effective settings to inform the bill. PCHD President A/Prof Nitin Kapur FRACP was also supported to deliver a tailored presentation to Dr Scamps and other teal independents outlining the strong case for stronger national regulations.

### **Advocacy for a fit-for-purpose Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC)**

- The RACP has long called for an Australian CDC to boost national pandemic preparedness and responsiveness to preventable chronic diseases, being the only OECD country without one.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/221011\\_racp\\_nmp-submission\\_approved.pdf?sfvrsn=7e8ace1a\\_6](https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/221011_racp_nmp-submission_approved.pdf?sfvrsn=7e8ace1a_6)

Through November and early December, the College developed a significant submission to the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care outlining our vision for the CDC, its functions, role and structure. The submission was led by P&A with significant support from AFPHM, AFOEM, the COVID-ERG, the PAAG, ASID and other specialty societies. It represents the first steps toward formal engagement with the government and enhancing recognition of the skills physicians can bring to the CDC initiative.

## Evolve

- To finalise the Evolve Strategy 2022-26 and Evolve Strategy Implementation Plan for 2022-26, the P&A Team conducted a second round of consultation with its College members, the College Policy & Advocacy Council (CPAC) and the Evolve Policy & Advocacy Interest Group (PAIG). The final versions are to be submitted to CPAC for final approval.
- Dr Joanna Lawrence led the development of a [new case study](#) based on an Evolve recommendation from the Paediatrics and Child Health Division on not undertaking x-rays for diagnosis of bronchiolitis in children and not routinely prescribing salbutamol or systemic corticosteroids to treat bronchiolitis in children. The case study has been promoted to members.
- RACP Evolve promoted the [Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine Evolve Top-5 Recommendations](#) at the 2022 Australasian Professional Society of Addiction Medicine Conference, 10-12 October 2022.
- RACP Evolve promoted the [Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Evolve Top-5 Recommendations](#) at the 2022 Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Annual Scientific Meeting, 17–19 October 2022.
- In December the College promoted the RACP Evolve fact sheet and the new Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion RACP Evolve Top-5 Recommendations in a 2-page advertisement in the Medical Journal of Australia and Internal Medicine Journal.



## Climate and Justice



- Following extensive advocacy on climate change and health, through the [Healthy Climate Future campaign](#), the President RACP has been invited to sit on the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Group (CMOAG) for the National Climate, Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy is a key ask of the Healthy Climate Future campaign and the Health Minister has publicly acknowledged the RACP's advocacy in securing the Strategy.
- The College prepared comprehensive feedback on a Discussion Paper for a National Health and Climate Strategy. Members of the Climate Change and Health Working Group and Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee were consulted in the preparation of the submission. This is an important opportunity to ensure Australia adapts to minimise the health harms from climate change and ensures that healthcare systems can continue to provide high quality care in way that harnesses health benefits and contributes to health equity. The College will remain engaged in this work as it progresses.
- The Healthy Climate Future campaign asks were adapted for the Victorian and NSW State elections with further advocacy underway.
- On Wednesday 2 November, the [MJA-Lancet Countdown report](#) was launched at the National Arboretum, Canberra. Dr Jacqueline Small, PRACP was in attendance and presented on the RACP research report: [Climate Change and Australia's Healthcare Systems: A Review of Literature, Policy, and Practice](#) and Healthy Climate Future campaign.

## Populations in Focus

### Paediatrics and Child Health

- PCHD President Associate Professor Nitin Kapur attended an event at Parliament House Canberra in November at the invitation of the Australian Medical Association to discuss with Dr Sophie Scamps MP, other independent MPs and key peak bodies/organisations early plans regarding proposed legislation related to regulation of marketing and advertising of unhealthy foods to children and young people.

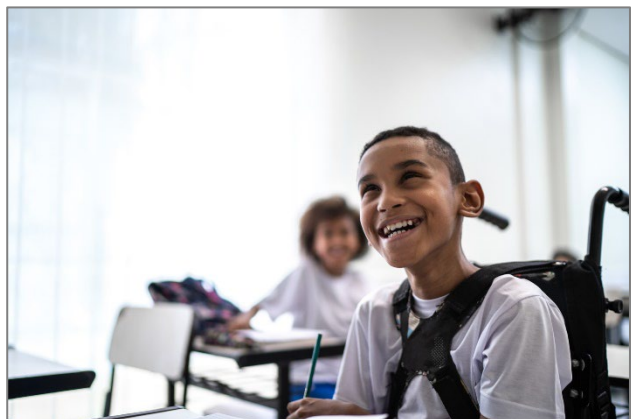
- International and national health events were used as social media opportunities, including National Children’s Week (22-30 October) and World Children’s Day (20 November).
- Further revision of the draft Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services position statement has been conducted to better structure the document and illustrate in a different manner the differences between Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (AoNZ). Engagement and discussions are underway with key stakeholders and Māori in AoNZ to further develop the statement.

## Adolescents and Young Adults

- The Youth Appropriate Health Care Working Group have commenced planning for the development of the new position paper on Youth Appropriate Health Care, which aims to address how health services can be more appropriate for young people. The key domains and principles that would underpin the position statement as well as the stakeholders that should be involved have been discussed with the drafting phase of the project to commence shortly, as well as an EOI process to establish a Youth Advisory Group.

## Disability

- The RACP was asked for further information relating to our submission and attendance at the ongoing Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. We were able to highlight work that has been undertaken since our attendance at the Hearing in 2021 and our advocacy work related to disability.



- The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) convened a fourth and fifth meeting with the RACP in October and November to provide an update on the new person-centred model in place of independent assessments. Members and College staff attended these meetings to provide input into the process. The meetings have included representatives from RACP, RACGP and RANZCP (both adult and paediatric clinicians) and focussed on discussion regarding a re-design project for access and planning processes for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Work has commenced on revision of the RACP NDIS Guides for Paediatricians and Physicians, via a commission with the National Disability Services (NDS).



## Rehabilitation

- The finalised Bariatric Rehabilitation position statement will be published and formally launched in early 2023.

## Palliative medicine

- International and national health events were used with social media opportunities, including World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (8 October) and National Carers Week (16-22 October).

## COVID-19

- Following the announcement of the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Long COVID and Repeated COVID Infections](#), to which Paediatrician and RACP Fellow, Dr Mike Freeland MP, has been appointed Committee Chair, a College submission was developed and submitted has been published on the [Inquiry website](#).
- The final COVID-19 webinar hosted by the RACP COVID-19 Expert Reference Group was held on 17 November. The webinar focused on the impact of COVID-19 of First Nations communities in Australia and involved an open panel discussion with an outstanding line-up of expert guests including:
  - **Professor James Ward**, Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Queensland and member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19
  - **Dr Nirosini Kennedy**, Consultant paediatrician with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, as well as President-Elect, RACP Paediatrics and Child Health Division
  - **Dr Jason Agostino**, General Practitioner, epidemiologist, NACCHO Medical Advisor and member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19
  - **Dr Lucas De Toca**, First Assistant Secretary in the Australian Department of Health, leading the COVID-19 Primary Care Response, and co-chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19
  - **Ms Kristy Crooks**, Aboriginal Program Manager, Health Protection Unit of Hunter New England Population Health and APPRISE Centre of Research Excellence PhD Scholar focusing on developing a process of how to privilege First Nations voices in infectious disease emergency planning and response
- Version 3.0 of the [RACP COVID-19 Living Narrative](#) has been published outlining the College's COVID-19 activity until the end of November 2022.

## Health care of workers

- Key areas of activity related to the implementation of the National Dust Diseases Taskforce recommendations include:
  - **Development of the National Occupational Respiratory Diseases Registry:** as a foundation initiative for physicians' effective address of this issue there has been significant activity on advocating the parameters of its design, including meetings with Department of Health and Aged Care, provision of a new AFOEM representative to the Registry Build Advisory Committee, supporting meetings of the Lead Fellows for Accelerated Silicosis, developing a RACP submission on confidential draft legislation to affect the Registry.
  - **Performance audit of Safework NSW:** following the announcement of a performance audit into the effectiveness and efficiency of Safework NSW, Lead Fellows wrote to the NSW Auditor-General expressing concerns about the accuracy of data on numbers of cases of accelerated silicosis and silica-related diseases associated in NSW. It is essential to determine the extent of these diseases among the NSW workforce. The NSW Auditor-General has responded noting the work will be scoped in 2023.
- **Improving the health of health care workers' project.** This new project addresses occupational health and safety issues within the healthcare sector, highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following an Expression of Interest, two working groups have been established to drive two different deliverables.
- **Fitness to drive.** This is an important issue for vehicle drivers and AFOEM has provided key input into recent ACT initiatives, such as the mandating of five yearly health assessments by physicians and the mandating of reporting by health practitioners regarding patients with long term illness.

## Aged Care

- **Advisory group.** A new Policy and Advocacy Advisory Group (PAAG) for aged care has been formed and comprises eleven members presently. This will be a key source for member led College advice on aged care issues. If you are interested in joining the aged care stream of the PAAG or other PAAG streams, or other P&A groups please [visit here](#).
- **Review of the 2019 Aged Care Quality Standards.** A College submission was developed for the Department of Health and Aged Care review of the 2019 Aged Care Quality Standards. These set out what should be expected in aged care to providers, people working in the sector, older Australians, and their families.

## Sexual Health

- The Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM) led a cross-College consultation on a draft submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare.<sup>6</sup> The inquiry is looking at the barriers to achieving priorities under the National Women's Health Strategy for 'universal access to sexual and reproductive health information, treatment and services that offer options to women to empower choice and control in decision-making about their bodies.' The College has been invited to lodge a final approved submission by 15 December 2022.
- The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) is seeking AChSHM and College endorsement of the revised Australian sexually transmitted infection (STI) Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care<sup>7</sup>. The Guidelines have been endorsed as a national Guideline by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care's Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible infections Standing Committee (BBVSS) and are a Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Accepted Clinical Resource. AChSHM participated in updating the Guidelines as part of a multisectoral and multi-disciplinary Reference Committee.
- Dr Vincent Cornelisse (FACHSHM, FACHAM) presented an update on the Monkeypox virus (MPX) at the CPAC Council meeting on 2 November 2022. The College may have a role to continue advocating for better MPX vaccine access in Australian states other than NSW and Victoria with vaccine stock and vaccine delivery infrastructure (e.g. vaccine hubs), and to advocate for better MPX vaccine access in Aotearoa New Zealand (AoNZ). Dr Cornelisse's update included an analysis of how MPX has been managed in Australia to:
  - procure vaccines
  - set up MPX vaccination hubs (separate from sexual health services)
  - launch online platforms to register interest in vaccination
  - develop online training modules for clinicians on intradermal vaccination
  - run online webinars for the community, on vaccination and staying safe
  - run online webinars for clinicians, on how to manage MPX in the clinic, who to recommend for vaccination, and to develop clinical guidelines on MPX management.

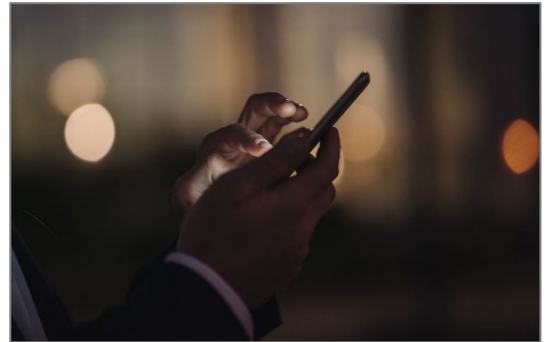


<sup>6</sup> [inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Australian STI Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care](#)

## Addiction Medicine

- A College submission was developed jointly with The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)<sup>8</sup> in response to the Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' Inquiry into **online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm**. This joint submission provides the perspectives of physicians, paediatricians and psychiatrists on the need for thorough regulation of online gambling provision and an integrated public health response when treating those experiencing gambling harm.



## Aotearoa New Zealand

### Submissions

- A submission to the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) was developed in response to a consultation on the revised MCNZ statement on doctors and health-related commercial organisations. The submission highlights areas for improvement to better ensure doctors can recognise and bias or conflicts of interest that may arise in interactions with health-related commercial organisations.
- A submission to Telehealth NZ was developed to provide feedback on the Patient Anywhere Specialist Everywhere (PASE) model of care. This submission acknowledges that the model is a great addition to the expanding toolkit for the provision of equitable and accessible health care in Aotearoa NZ. However, barriers to successful implementation must be addressed to ensure attainment of intended objectives and benefits.

## Regional advocacy

Between October and December advocacy included:

- Development and publication of the Victorian Regional Committee's 2022 Election Statement.
  - This was coordinated with media release, direct member comms, social media, and promotional items in the usual College comms channels.
  - As soon as the allocation of ministerial portfolios is clear we will engage with congratulatory letters and make contact to pursue advocacy in the identified priority areas.
  - Just prior to the November election we met Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton to discuss the priorities and other areas of shared interest.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/221011\\_racp\\_nmp-submission\\_approved.pdf?sfvrsn=7e8ace1a\\_6](https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/221011_racp_nmp-submission_approved.pdf?sfvrsn=7e8ace1a_6)

- Also prior to the election Dr Evelyn Wong, member of the Victorian Regional Committee, presented this advocacy to CPAC Council.
- Planning was undertaken by the NSW/ACT Regional Committee to support its advocacy around the NSW state election in March 2023.
  - Plans include an election statement, and pre-election member event on climate change and health (for which the College's Health Climate Future advocacy is being tailored to the NSW context)
  - Consultation also underway for the Kids COVID Catch Up Campaign asks to be tailored for the NSW election.
- All regional committees have developed draft workplans for their new 3-year terms, featuring items aligning with the Board's strategic plan including becoming policy and advocacy champions in each jurisdiction.
- Dr Rabin Bhandari, Chair, SA Regional Committee, Dr Grainne Murray and P&A met with Hon Chris Picton, SA Minister for Health, to flag concerns about wellbeing, staff culture, clinical workload affecting education and training, and related areas raised by Trainees' Committee in South Australia.
- Professor Brian Wood, Chair, QLD Regional Committee, A/Prof Nitin Kapur, President, PCHD, and P&A met QLD Opposition Leader David Crisafulli and opposition health spokesperson Ros Bates, on Raise the Age. They also discussed physician/trainee wellbeing, geriatric care, and alcohol and other drug treatment services.
- Professor Cathy Choong, member of the WA Regional Committee and former PCHD president, worked with PCHD President Nitin Kapur, P&A, and the Office of the Dean to develop a College submission to the WA Parliament's Inquiry into Child Development Services. The submission focussed on workforce and the College's role as the sole accredited provider of specialist paediatric training.

## Submissions and endorsements

### Submissions



October 2022

- [Submission to the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's Draft National Medicines Policy – Committee' Draft](#)
- [Submission to Australian Government's National Medicine Policy](#)

- Submission on the ACT Charter of Rights for families involved with Child & Youth Protection Service
- Feedback on Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements for healthcare workers
- Feedback on the Blueprint for Mentally Healthy Workplaces
- Submission on Point-of-care testing for sexually transmitted infections provided by Aboriginal Medical Services or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in rural or remote areas – *delegated AChSHM*

#### November 2022

- Joint RANZCP/RACP submission - Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm
- Submission to DOHA Review of the Aged Care Quality Standards with Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Long COVID and repeated COVID infections
- Submission on the ACT proposed change to health assessments (Fitness to drive) — *delegated AFOEM*

#### December 2022

- Feedback to Life Support Customer Medical Advisory Group
- Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare

### Endorsements



#### October 2022

- ANZCA PG67(G) Guideline for the care of patients at the end-of-life who are considered for surgery or interventional procedures
- WA Cancer Council joint statement supporting MUP
- Emerging Minds and Parenting Research Centre practice guides

#### December

- ASHM Australian STI Management Guidelines

## Media



### December

Media releases:

- [Closing the Gap Report results disappointing as benchmarks continue to fall short](#) | 1 December 2022

Media coverage:

- [Doctors express fears for Indigenous kids](#) | [The West Australian](#) | 1 December 2022

### Doctors express fears for Indigenous kids

Neve Brissenden | AAP  
Thu, 1 December 2022 11:57AM



The Closing the Gap report coincides with renewed debate about an Indigenous voice to parliament. (Dan Peled/AAP PHOTOS) Credit: AAP

### November

Media releases:

- [Physicians welcome the Government's push to strengthen vaping and tobacco controls](#) | 30 November 2022
- [Medical Colleges open letter calling for all governments to raise the age of criminal responsibility and set up taskforce to fix youth justice system](#) | 17 November 2022
- [RACP President available to comment on raising the age of criminal responsibility](#) | 14 November 2022
- [Joint statement: Health systems straining under mounting under climate pressure, MJA & Lancet report warns](#) | 2 November 2022

## Media coverage:

- [Northern Territory set to become first Australian jurisdiction to raise the age of criminal responsibility. Here's what that means](#) | ABC, 29 November 2022
- [Australian medical colleges call for age of criminal responsibility to be raised](#) | 9News, 17 November 2022
- [Australian governments under fire for harming children](#) | Croakey, 17 November 2022
- [National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds calls for taskforce to fix brutal youth detention](#) | The West Australian, 15 November 2022
- ['It's working well': McGowan rejects calls for a royal commission into Banksia Hill](#) | Sydney Morning Herald, 15 November 2022
- [Urgent action needed to address child immunisation crisis, experts say](#) | Stuff.co.nz, 7 November 2022
- [Failure to tackle climate change will put pressure on health system, peak medical bodies say](#) | The Guardian, 2 November 2022

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians president, Dr **Jacqueline Small**, said the flood devastation across Australia “forewarns increased frequency and intensity of all extreme weather events as a consequence of climate change”.

She said:

▲▲ *This is both an immediate and long-term reality.*

*We urge the federal government to move with urgency and ambition on plans for a national climate change, health and wellbeing strategy.*

## October

### Media releases:

- [Wellbeing budget welcome but falls short of intervention to halt health crisis](#) | 26 October 2022
- ['No choice but to face the crisis' – RACP says Federal Budget must invest in healthcare system](#) | 22 October 2022
- [The RACP welcomes NDIS Independent Review but it must include physicians and the health sector](#) | 19 October 2022
- [Winter viruses smash Aust health system](#) | AAP, 8 Oct 2022

### Media coverage:

- [Nitrous oxide neurological risk for young](#) | The Canberra Times, 6 Oct 2022
- ['Nanging' from whipped cream canisters cause havoc in youth](#) | Daily Telegraph, Oct 2022
- [Winter viruses smash Aust health system](#) | AAP, 8 Oct 2022
- [Budget Breakdown](#) | Medical Forum, 27 Oct 2022



## Stakeholder meetings

- 7 Oct: PRACP, AFPHM President and P&A met with PHAA- Terry Slevin & Tarun Weeramanthri
- 14 Oct: PRACP and P&A met with Health Secretary, Prof Brendan Murphy
- 11 Nov: A/Prof Solomon Menahem, Chair, VIC Regional Committee, and P&A met with Professor Brett Sutton, VIC CHO

## Government relations

- 4 Oct: P&A met with Rachael Davies, Senior Adviser to the Victorian Minister for Education, Natalie Hutchins MP
- 6 Oct: P&A met with Assistant Secretary Rachel O'Connor, Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Closing the Gap Branch, and Pam Banerjee, Director of the Student Wellbeing team, Federal Department of Education
- 19 Oct: P&A met with Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officer Angie Bone and representatives re Climate and Health to discuss Victorian election advocacy work and the Department's plans on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 24 Nov: Dr Rabin Bhandari, Chair, SA Regional Committee, Dr Grainne Murray and P&A met with Hon Chris Picton, SA Minister for Health
- 1 Dec: Professor Brian Wood, Chair, QLD Regional Committee, A/Prof Nitin Kapur, President, PCHD, met QLD Opposition Leader David Crisafulli and opposition health spokesperson Ros Bates, on Raise the Age. They also discussed physician/trainee wellbeing, geriatric care, and alcohol and other drug treatment services.

## P&A Reports

The [P&A reports](#) (quarterly and annual) highlight policy and advocacy activity of the [College Policy & Advocacy Council](#) (CPAC) and the CPAC representative College bodies, in line with the CPAC work plan and the [CPAC Plan 2022-26](#).

## CPD

There are a range of P&A activities which members can earn CPD points for, outlined below. For further information on RACP CPD framework and requirements please visit the [CPD page](#).

### Category 1 – educational activities

- [Committee/working group meetings](#)

- Presentations
- Representation at government/other external bodies

## Category 2 – reviewing performance

- Peer review/consultation of professional activities including policy development
- Review of foundation scholarship program (*if this is a review of the scholarship program itself, it would be a category 2 activity. If it is reviewing applications for the scholarship, it would be a category 1 activity*)
  - Cat 1
  - Cat 2

## Category 3 – measuring outcomes

- Policy development - cat 3 if reviewing data, standards, guidelines to develop policy
- Developing Evolve recommendations

## Your feedback

We understand the importance of feedback. If you have the time, please complete a 2-question survey to help us understand if this is a helpful report and any improvements.

[Complete survey here](#)

## P&A Team

For more information, contact the Policy and Advocacy Team  
[policy@racp.edu.au](mailto:policy@racp.edu.au) (Aus) [policy@racp.org.nz](mailto:policy@racp.org.nz) (AoNZ)

