



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP supports the MBS Review to focus on quality patient care

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians welcomes the ongoing review of the Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) and supports the need for all tests and treatments listed on the MBS to be consistent with current evidence which supports better care.

RACP President Elect, Doctor Catherine Yelland said that the college supports the aims of the reviews to modernise a system to ensure it meets contemporary health care needs, particularly in relation to the delivery of care in a patient centred and genuinely integrated fashion.

“At the moment, the MBS doesn’t always reflect the evolving clinical evidence and current medical practice. This needs to be addressed because it potentially impacts on the quality of care for our patients,” Dr Yelland said.

“This review has an important role to play in terms of improving ‘best care’ to the community, and as physicians we are always looking for ways to modernise our approach based on contemporary understandings and evidence of safe and effective care.

“Over the last year, the RACP has been working with more than 16 medical societies on an initiative we call EVOLVE. Each medical society is working with their members and the RACP to develop evidence-based lists of their top five clinical practices that are unnecessary or ineffective under a given clinical circumstance.

“If the medical profession can start reducing the number of unnecessary consultations, tests and procedures, we can ensure we have a health system that better supports high value and high quality care for our patients and our community.

“Both the MBS review and the Primary Health Care Review are opportunities to advance significant reforms in this area.

“We are committed to continuing to work with our Fellows, the government and other stakeholders to improve the health system through ensuring a consistent focus on the delivery of safe and effective health care.”

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,950 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,530 Trainee members across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 34 medical specialties including paediatrics & child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology and public health medicine, occupational & environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation 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. www.racp.edu.au