



Media Release

Experts to discuss leading healthcare issues at Congress 2015

22 May 2015

Leading national and international specialist physicians will convene in Cairns this week (25 to 27 May) to share the latest medical research affecting the healthcare of Australians and New Zealanders.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Breaking Boundaries – Creating Connections Congress 2015 will highlight issues such as refugee health, medical cannabis, gender identity and end of life care.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said Congress 2015 will bring together top healthcare experts from more than 30 medical specialties from Australia and New Zealand, to discuss topics that affect the health of both nations.

“Addressing developmental disability in refugee children, end-of-life care, how gender dysphoria affects adolescents and the role of medical cannabis in children with epilepsy are among the presentations at this year’s Congress,” Professor Talley said.

Professor Talley said the College will call on governments in Australia and New Zealand to ensure existing national health programs and strategies are extended to all refugees and asylum seekers, regardless of their time of arrival, mode of arrival or visa status.

“It is important that we discuss the specific health issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers such as access to healthcare services, language support, housing, education, family integrity, employment and a safe environment,” Professor Talley said.

“These social determinants have significant impact on long-term health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers and need addressing throughout the assessment and settlement phase to maximise health and human potential.”

Congress 2015 international keynote speaker Terry Roycroft founded the Medicinal Cannabis Resource Centre, the leading cannabis clinic in Canada with a team of doctors who specialise in prescribing cannabis.

On Tuesday, 26 May as part of panel discussion on end-of-life care, the businessman and entrepreneur will discuss the Canadian experience putting together customised medicinal cannabis health care programs for patients suffering from the final stages terminal illness such as cancer and AIDs.

On Wednesday, 27 May James Ward, health researcher and descendant of the Pitjantjatjara and Nurrunga clans of central and South Australia will deliver a key note speech on sexually transmissible infections and blood borne viruses among Australia’s first peoples.

The theme for this year’s Congress is Breaking Boundaries Creating Connections. The event will see Australia and New Zealand’s physicians, paediatricians and other health professionals discuss and debate key topics at the forefront of the health agenda.

Ends

MEDIA REGISTRATION:

To register your interest in attending the RACP Congress 2015 and/or to receive media releases, please contact Ryan Lipman on (+61) 2 9256 9650, (+61) 408 639 697 or ryan.lipman@racp.edu.au.

For the full Congress program, please see the [Congress website](#).

Follow the RACP on Twitter: twitter.com/TheRACP Join the Congress Twitter conversation: #RACPCongress15
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