



Australasian Faculty of  
Public Health Medicine



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

## **Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine**

**Annual Members' Meeting Report  
Sydney, 15 May 2018**



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## President's Report

### ▪ Introduction

The last Annual Members' Meeting Report was tabled at the meeting held at the World Congress of Public Health in Melbourne in April 2017, so this report reflects 13 months of activity for AFPHM. I would first like to acknowledge the colleagues and committees whose tremendous commitment and hard work support the education and, policy and advocacy initiatives of AFPHM and commend the reports that follow to you. I will also raise highlights from the past year including the substantial projects that have been completed.

Robyn Lucas, chairs the Faculty Education Committee (FEC); in the **Faculty Education Report** she acknowledges the achievements of the FEC and its subcommittees. These committees support entry into training, supervision, and assessment for the AFPHM Training Program, and also seek to continuously improve these processes. I would like to thank Tony Gill who has again overseen the National Training Days this year as Chair of the Training Committee. The National Training Days form an essential component of AFPHM training. CPD and OTP processes are also overseen by the FEC.

There are 87 Active Trainees and 29 Trainees on interruption to training (see table 1). Over this period the Trainee Committee has been led by Jacqui Murdoch and then by Aditya Vas. A robust trainee voice is essential to the development of the Training Program and of the Faculty. I thank all the members of the Trainee Committee for their active contributions including working with Tony on the conception and delivery of the National Training Days 2018.

Brett Sutton took over from Christian Gericke as the Chair of the Policy and Advocacy Committee (FPAC) during this period. Fellows greatly value the capacity to advocate on public health matters and to influence government policy and public opinion. The **Policy and Advocacy Report** describes the breadth of the policy and advocacy issues addressed by FPAC. Christian continues on the College Policy and Advocacy Committee (CPAC). The Faculty was instrumental in establishing the Policy and Advocacy Unit in the RACP and many AFPHM Fellows continue to be closely involved in CPAC.

A strong community of practice is essential to support a strong, resilient Faculty. The Regional Committees and the NZ AFPHM Committee form the 'glue' that holds our community of practice together. These committees make possible the delivery of training and CPD, and action our public health voice. I would like to particularly thank all the Regional Committee Chairs and also the Regional Training Coordinators for ensuring consistency in the delivery of the Training Program by providing local support to our supervisors and trainees. Table 2 describes the current number of Fellows in each jurisdiction and in New Zealand.

AFPHM trainees in Australia at May 2018	
State/Jurisdiction	Total
ACT	13
NSW	41
NT	6
QLD	15
SA	5
TAS	2
VIC	27
WA	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Active</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>On interruption</b>	<b>29</b>

AFPHM Fellows in Australia at May 2018	
State/Jurisdiction	Total
ACT	43
NSW	207
NT	23
QLD	94
SA	41
TAS	22
VIC	114
WA	63
<b>Australian Total</b>	<b>607</b>
<b>AFPHM Fellows in New Zealand at May 2018</b>	<b>81</b>

I would like to thank all the RACP staff who have supported the work of the Faculty and particularly those in the Faculty office and in Education Services. During 2017 Lisa Penlington oversaw the Faculty until the new Manager Faculties, Pip Warnes, was appointed. Shortly following her appointment Pip proceeded onto maternity leave and Wynne Bell has ably covered this role. Wynne will leave the College following the RACP Congress. Wynne has been a great support to Kerri Clarke, our Executive Officer. Kerri, who has been a committed EO for AFPHM for a number of years, will also be leaving the Faculty following Congress. Kerri has a new role with the Paediatrics and Child Health Division. On behalf of the Faculty I wish Kerri and Wynne every success for the future. Lisa Penlington who is currently the Acting Director of Fellowship Relations is overseeing the appointment of the new EO.

### AFPHM Future of the Faculty

The Future of the Faculty is a major project that commenced under the Presidency of Greg Stewart. In May 2016 the RACP Board approved the creation, Terms of Reference and membership of an AFPHM Future of the Faculty Working Group. The group was convened on 24 August for 12 months and it presented its report to AFPHM Council and then to the College at the end of July 2017. The July eBulletin provided a short description of the findings and the recommendations.

While the Faculty is firmly established, like all young organisations we must continue to focus on what we want to become. This vision of the future was captured by the Working Group in seven aspirational statements they developed:

1. The Faculty is highly recognised for its leadership and advocacy in relation to health, equity and social justice.
2. The Faculty has an active international advocacy and partnership agenda focussed on planetary health.



3. Public Health Medicine has a presence within the medical profession, the health system and society generally.
4. The Faculty's training program is recognised as a model for high quality, financially sustainable, networked training and is a preferred career option for medical students and young doctors.
5. The Faculty has in place an excellent CPD system based on current adult learning principles and processes.
6. The Faculty is governed with flexible, agile and robust processes that allow relevant involvement of all members.
7. There is a productive relationship between the Public Health Medicine professional bodies of Australia and New Zealand, and with the Pacific nations.

The preferred model which emerged from the consultations was that the Faculty remain within the College and work with the College to achieve a model for greater autonomy for the Faculty.

The report, which expressed the growing concern within the Faculty about the impact of the 2009 transition to a 'One College' model, was considered at the August meeting of the RACP Board; the Board noted the findings and decided to establish a new Board Working Party to explore the issues raised (which have implications for the whole College). This group has met once in December 2017. The report was also raised at the February meeting of the RACP Council and subsequently distributed to all members of Council. At the last meeting of the Board in March it was agreed that a consultant be employed to explore how the recommendations might be actioned. This work will be progressed by the incoming RACP Board and I have had a first meeting with the consultant. We will provide an update to members at the 2018 Annual meeting. The Working Party has now been disbanded and I would once again like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by The Future of the Faculty Working Group.

### **Faculty Planning:**

The Faculty has used an annual planning day to develop a Council Work Plan. The following summarises the progress on other major activities linked to the Work Plan. The College has now moved to a two-year planning cycle. Copies of the current plan will be available at the meeting.

### **The Public Health Medicine workforce study**

The development of a comprehensive public health medicine workforce strategy for Australia and New Zealand is essential for AFPHM. At the Annual meeting last year the next step towards an evidenced based strategy for Australia, the report '*Planned and unplanned futures for the public Health Physician Workforce in Australia – A labour market analysis for the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, 2017*', was launched. This report built on an earlier research report '*The Unique Contribution of Public Health Physicians to the Public Health Workforce*' which was released in 2010. Both these reports are available on the Faculty website.

Linda Selvey, Greg Stewart and I met with Professor Richard Doherty, the College Dean, and Mr Brian Freestone, Director of Professional Affairs, in September 2017



about the workforce issues raised by the reports and how to link these with the workforce projects of the College. We were advised that the Commonwealth Government is currently undertaking modelling exercise of medical specialist workforces. While AFPHM is in a strong, strategic position to engage with this process we are still waiting for a meeting.

The Public Health Medicine workforce is a concern in all jurisdictions. Recently the Victorian Regional Committee developed a discussion paper describing a strategic approach for Victoria and these approaches potentially have broader application.

The strategic development of the Public Health Medicine Workforce in both Australia and New Zealand, and in particular responding to the findings of the reports, remains firmly on the agenda of the AFPHM Council.

### **The Specialist Training Program**

STP is a standing item on every meeting of Council. The Faculty has 31 Public Health Medicine positions that have ongoing funding; a small number of positions which had received period funding ceased at the end of last year. The Commonwealth reviewed the STP Program in 2015 and announced reforms; for example one target is to increase the number of rural posts by 18 percent.

The STP positions are essential to our capacity to train and an important contribution to our workforce strategy, consequently Council continues to monitor this program closely.

### **Developing a Faculty Narrative**

The College is developing narratives for all of the Faculties and Divisions. This is linked to the new branding of the College – Specialists. Together. The tagline linked to this Educate, Advocate, Innovate is intended to enable communication with internal and external audiences. The Faculty will develop a Tagline and Value Sentences that are linked to Educate, Advocate, Innovate and also Value Paragraphs that expand on each of these.

### **AFPHM in New Zealand**

There are persistent problems faced by the NZ Committee in maintaining a strong community of practice to support the NZ AFPHM Fellowship. While the NZ Committee has been involved in a number of significant projects eg the planned review of the Public Health Medicine training by Health Workforce NZ, they struggle to identify Fellows to join the Committee. Most AFPHM jurisdictions have informal communication networks which allow members to know and engage with the local colleagues. This would appear to be more difficult in NZ. It is agreed that a strategic approach is required.

Council has agreed that a strategic planning session be held for the New Zealand membership. To prepare for this the NZ RACP/AFPHM office will survey NZ AFPHM members to gauge their interest in attending a planning session and the issues that



they would like to raise. RACP Congress will be in Auckland next year and this provides an opportunity to create a focus for these activities to strengthen the community of practice in New Zealand.

Building closer ties with the NZ College of Public Health Medicine (NZCPHM) remains a high priority. Face-to-face meetings continue to occur opportunistically and the NZ College President was a guest at the AFPHM President's Dinner at the World Congress in Melbourne last year. Currently Council is considering developing a Memorandum of Collaboration with the NZ College. Dr Felicity Dumble is the new President of the NZ College.

### **World Congress of Public Health 2017 and RACP Congress 2018**

Following a highly successful World Congress on Public Health in 2017 AFPHM has played an active role in planning the current RACP Congress. One area of which we can be very proud is our strong and continued advocacy about the health effects of climate change. This has been developed as a theme for Congress 2018 and will be explored in a series of sessions over the first two days. Dr David Pencheon OBE, the founder Director of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, will deliver the key note address at Congress. David's presence in Australia has allowed the Faculty to cohost a series of events with senior members of the health systems in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart, to highlight the approaches that enabled the NHS to cap its carbon emissions and then reduce them, while increasing clinical activity. I am very pleased to report that David's presentations have universally stimulated great interest.

### **Supporting Pacific Island Countries Public Health Capacity**

A workshop was convened by AFPHM at the World Congress and jointly facilitated with the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences of the Fiji National University. The workshop brought together representatives of Pacific Island Countries and international Public Health and Public Health Medicine Colleges, Faculties and Associations. The purpose was to develop a shared understanding of the public health challenges in the Pacific, in particular the effect of climate change on health in the Pacific; the current public health workforce capacity and gaps; and the challenges to strengthening capacity. It also identified the current initiatives of international public health Faculties and Colleges relevant to public health workforce capacity development.

The workshop identified that a coordinated response that recognised the specific needs of the Pacific Island countries was required and a list of needs was identified. The outcomes of the workshop were described in a report that is available on the Faculty website and which was shared with all participants. A session at RACP Congress 2018 will focus on the effects of Climate Change on Pacific Island Nations and will allow the conversation to be continued.

Collaboration is at the heart of public health practice and this is an example of how the Faculty collaborates with important public health partners, such as the Public Health Association of Australia and the Faculty of Public Health in the United Kingdom to



achieve strategic public health outcomes. It also demonstrates the importance of collegial international relations with sister Faculties of Public Health.

### **Meeting with the College of Public Health Medicine, Academy of Malaysia**

A workshop was also convened by AFPHM at the World Congress at the request of the College of Public Health Medicine, Academy of Malaysia (CPHM to discuss matters of mutual interest). CPHM provided the following core objectives prior to the meeting:

- To identify collaboration opportunities in training, research, technology and public health services.
- To explore the possibility of CPHM delegates becoming members of AFPHM.
- To share and learn with the Australian team in tackling Public Health Issues.

The College and AFPHM each face different challenges and it was agreed that an ongoing dialogue would help both parties to learn from each other's experiences. A report was prepared summarising the discussions

### **The *Lancet* Countdown:**

On 31 October, I chaired the RACP/*Lancet*/AMSA launch of the 2017 *Lancet* Countdown Report. The RACP, facilitated by AFPHM, has collaborated with the *Lancet* on the release of all three of its Climate Change and Health reports since 2009; the most recent was the launch of the [Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change](#). The Countdown is an international collaboration tracking 40 health indicators. For the 2017 Report launch the *Lancet* worked with 5 international partners to produce additional country-specific policy briefs. One of these countries was Australia through the RACP; we also negotiated for the Australian Medical Students' Association to be a launch partner (<http://www.lancetcountdown.org/media/1341/2017-lancet-countdown-australian-policy-brief.pdf>).

### **Conclusion**

The capacity of AFPHM to deliver this substantial and important body of work, the goal of which is to improve the health of the current and future generations, is dependent upon the active engagement and support of the Fellows and Trainees. On behalf of the Council I thank you for your engagement.

I would like to thank the members of the outgoing AFPHM Council and present this Annual Report on their behalf.

I welcome the incoming Council and the incoming President Linda Selvey and incoming President-Elect Robyn Lucas and look forward to another productive year.



## AFPHM Council:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Incoming</b>
President	Lynne Madden	Linda Selvey
President-elect	Linda Selvey	Robyn Lucas
NZ Committee Chair	Paul Bohmer	John Holmes*
Policy & Advocacy Committee Chair	Brett Sutton	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Education Committee Chair	Robyn Lucas	Robyn Lucas
Education Committee Deputy Chair	Tony Gill	Tony Gill
Councillor (Aus)	Jeanette Ward	Jeanette Ward
Councillor (Aus)	Nicola Spurrier	Nicola Spurrier*
Councillor (Aus)	Simon Crouch	Kushani Marshall
Councillor (Aus)	Peter Hill	Peter Hill
Councillor (Aus)	Raina MacIntyre	Abigail Yang
Councillor (NZ)	John Holmes	Keith Reid*
Councillor (NZ)	Andrew Old	<i>To be confirmed**</i>
Trainee Committee Chair	Aditya Vyas	<i>To be confirmed**</i>
Trainee Representative	Candice Colbran	<i>To be confirmed**</i>

\* *Recommended to the Board for appointment*

\*\* *Awaiting close and endorsement of current election processes.*

## New Zealand and Regional Chairs as at 15 May 2018:

Dr Paul Bohmer	New Zealand
Dr Anthony Gill	ACT
Dr Bronwen Harvey	ACT co-chair
Dr John Eastwood	NSW
Dr Jacki Mein	QLD
Dr Louise Flood	SA
Dr Maureen Davey	TAS
Dr Simon Slota-Kan	VIC
Dr Tina Bertilone	WA

*Professor Lynne Madden*  
*President, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine*

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## Faculty Education Report

In 2017 the Faculty Education Committee (FEC) was chaired by Prof Robyn Lucas. A hardworking and conscientious committee included Dr Sharon O'Rourke as Lead Fellow for Continuing Professional Development, Dr John Holmes as Lead Fellow for Overseas Trained Physicians, Dr Tony Gill as Lead Fellow for Training, A/Prof Nicola Spurrier as Lead Fellow for Assessment, Dr Phil Hider as the New Zealand representative and Prof Michael Ackland as Lead Fellow for Accreditation. Dr Simon Slota-Kan stepped down as Lead Fellow Physician Education and was replaced by Dr Stephanie Davis. Dr Abigail Yang stepped down as the Trainee representative and was replaced by Dr Jocelyn Chan. The committee was supported by Ms Lia Iliou; the FEC thanks Lia for her work over the year.

The Trainee Representative has been able to represent the views of trainees at the Faculty Education Committee and work with trainees as part of the Faculty Trainee Committee to make sure that the opinions and concerns of trainees are heard. At the face-to-face meeting in March 2018, the trainee representative presented the findings from a survey on the 2017 Oral Examination, conducted by the Faculty Trainee Committee and completed by trainees who sat the Oral Examination. The survey highlighted the importance of the mock examinations in helping trainees to prepare. Other issues discussed over the year included the importance of other Faculty-led educational opportunities to trainees, including the National Training Days (NTDs) and webinars.

In 2017, the Faculty Training Committee has continued to help administer the Faculty training program. The members of the Committee have made significant commitments in time in this role and there is always an ongoing need for refreshment of the Regional Education Coordinators who make up the Committee.

Overall the Faculty Training Committee reviewed:

- 30 Eligibility to Join Training applications,
- 38 MPH mapping applications,
- 22 applications to commence training (ATCT),
- 3 RPL applications,
- 127 Learning Contracts assessments,
- 100 Learning Contract Report assessments, and
- Monitored 123 trainees, noting a number of these have not commenced training.

The Faculty Training Committee, with the able assistance of the Faculty Office organised and ran the NTDs in Melbourne prior to the World Congress of Public Health and is organising the 2018 NTDs to be held in Sydney prior to the RACP Congress. As well, the Faculty Training Committee with significant support from the Faculty Office continued to run trainee webinars and the national mock examinations. Although the College does provide a learning series, this is significantly clinically focussed and so does not provide our trainees with appropriate training.



The Faculty Assessment Committee continued the steady progress in introducing assessments so that eventually there will be effectively one each of Workplace Reports (WPRs), Oral Presentation Assessments (OPAs), Direct Observation of Practical Professional Skills (DOPPS) and Professional Qualities Reflections (PQRs) for each 12 units (one year) of training. In 2017 the requirement for three WPR over the course of training was replaced by a requirement for 2 WPR and one Research Project, with the latter a College requirement. Several trainees sought Recognition of Prior Learning for the Research Project, which, in theory, would reduce the number of pieces of written assessment over the course of training to two. This was an unintended outcome of the change in requirements and has been amended for the 2019 Handbook, to ensure that three pieces of written assessment are produced for summative assessment over the course of training.

The FAC is undertaking a comprehensive review of all assessment requirements and mapping them against the training competencies, in 2018. The review is intending to include trainee consultation on assessment tools. One particular quality improvement which is already recognised to be required is enhancement of the marking rubric for both the Workplace Reports and the Oral Examination. The WPR marking rubric has been amended and this is being trialled through joint marking of WPRs over 2018.

The 2017 Oral Examination was held at the College offices from 1-2 November 2017. Prof Robyn Lucas was the Lead Examiner, with the examiner team including Dr Margaret Young (QLD), Dr Kelly Shaw (TAS), Dr Julia Brotherton (VIC), Prof Charles Watson (WA), Dr Doug Shaw (SA), Dr Paul Burgess (NT), Dr Apo Demirkol (NSW), and Dr Frank Beard (NSW). Dr Judy Straton provided quality assurance to ensure that all processes and procedures were followed. Training and quality assurance for examiners continue to be developed to ensure the Oral Examination provides a valid assessment of key competencies. As in previous years, each examination session included an Observer as an “examiner-in-training” to support both future Oral Examinations and regional mock examinations. Four observers attended over the two days of the Oral Examination. Twenty-one candidates sat the Oral Examination and 18 passed (86%). One candidate was offered a Supplementary Examination. The 2018 AFPHM Sue Morey Medal for best performance in the Oral Examination is to be awarded to Dr Annaliese van Dieman.

The main activities in relation to accreditation have been ensuring accreditation / reaccreditation of all advanced training positions across the country and participation in the College Accreditation Renewal Working Group (ARWG). The Faculty accreditation survey worked well and required only minor modifications in 2017. However, the FEC, in consultation with the Accreditation Unit, reduced the size and complexity of the Accreditation Site Survey for AFPHM training and increased the duration of accreditation from annually to every 3 years to expedite the process of re-accreditation of sites. There were no unexpected issues in the Faculty accreditation processes.

The accreditation renewal project has focused recently on finalisation of and consultation regarding the training provider standards as well as detailing the training network structures and functions. The following is an extract of a communique from the ARWG to CEC:



*"The preferred structure for delivery of the new curriculum model and associated assessment is a training network which offers an integrated training program as well as a diversity of experiences for trainees.*

*The Committee approved Training Network Principles applicable across the College, classified under the following five themes: Effective governance; Quality training management; Training support; Integrated training program; Recruitment and trainee distribution.*

*The next steps will be: Identification of existing networks and affiliations between settings in each State; Development of a Basic Training network implementation guide; and Development of an advocacy strategy to support the establishment and formalisation of networks".*

It is to be noted that the work of the ARWG to date has been specifically focused on the clinical disciplines and it has been made clear to CEC that the AFPHM will require a separate but complementary set of processes to be developed. No time frame has been determined for this.

The Lead Fellow for Continuing Professional Development, Dr O'Rourke, reports that MyCPD is now available on several platforms and has been well received. As of 31 March 2018, 64.7% of AFPHM Fellows had completed and submitted CPD for 2017, with a target of 95% by June after reminders are sent out. MyCPD offers a wide variety of resources including high quality resources linked to professional practice. The Cultural Competency resource is still in development. Work on a comprehensive search tool for all resources, a Digital Resource Catalogue, continues.

The final report on the Multisource Feedback (MSF) trial has been released. The overall response was positive and participants valued feedback, with the potential to improve their practice. They also appreciated a debrief from an appropriate physician although a debrief from a "professional non-physician" was also well received. It is likely the College will offer MSF as one of the options for performance review but it will not be compulsory. The trial identified the need to modify the process for several specialities including Public Health. The Lead Fellow for CPD will continue to monitor developments in this area.

In Australia, legislation for Revalidation is built around CPD. The Medical Board of Australia has focused on high value CPD activities, including reviewing performance and measuring outcomes. There is also an emphasis on flexibility and avoiding duplication of effort, building CPD into workplace activities. Over the next two years the College will work on strategies to assist Fellows in meeting changes to the requirements for Revalidation and CPD.

The Lead Fellow for Overseas Trained Physicians (OTPs) is a co-opted member of the College's OTP sub-Committee. The Lead is responsible for assessing applications from OTPs wishing to gain specialist recognition. Recent changes mean that UK-trained OTPs with a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CSST) are normally assessed for comparability to Australasian trained public health physicians on the documentation provided to the RACP. If there are questions about the nature and content of training, the Candidate is offered an interview. The Lead cannot both interview candidates and present them to the OTP Committee because of Australian legal advice on procedural fairness. This means that for any OTP interview, at least



one of the interviewers will be an AFPHM Fellow. However this Fellow may not be fully aware of the current training requirements in Public Health Medicine. The report of the Interview panel summarises training and experience, but recent changes mean they no longer make recommendations. The Lead Fellow reviews this information and presents it to the OTP subcommittee members who then make recommendations on the equivalence and comparability of overseas training. The Lead Fellow reviews the progress of the small number of OTPs in Public Health Medicine who have been recognised as substantially comparable and are undergoing either top-up training or peer review before gaining specialist registration. The College's OTP unit is transitioning to the new Medical Board of Australia guidelines that stipulate that partially comparable OTPs should complete all specialist assessment requirements within four years.

The process for OTP assessment in New Zealand is similar but the Medical Council of New Zealand oversees the peer review and supervision which has been deemed necessary by the NZ OTP Assessment Committee.

The Lead Fellow in Physician Education focuses on equipping Fellows with skills in trainee support, supervision and mentoring. The major resource for this is the Public Health specific supervisor training program (SPDP Plus One). While this was only delivered once in 2017 (in the ACT) we aim to reinvigorate this in 2018 including training to new trainers who will then deliver the program in as many jurisdictions as possible. The revised SPDP Plus One will incorporate a new section on best practices in mentoring, as well as updating training and assessment requirements. Guidelines on mentoring are also being developed with the aim to have these available via the Faculty website by the end of 2018

The AFPHM membership of the College Education Committee (CEC) ended on 31 Dec 2017. The Faculties will be represented by the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) for 2018-2019. This raises some concerns within the FEC, as rehabilitation medicine is likely to be more aligned with clinical specialties and the different needs of training in public health medicine may not be clearly recognised.

As we move into 2017 the FEC welcomes a number of new faces, and thanks ongoing members for their work on the Committee. The FEC recognises and appreciates the heavy workload carried particularly by the Training Committee, but also Lead Fellows in each of their areas of responsibility in a time where there is active development of education at the College level. The FEC would like to thank all Fellows involved in assisting trainees in 2017.

*Professor Robyn Lucas*  
*Chair, Faculty Education Committee*

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## Policy and Advocacy Report

With a transition in chairing arrangements, there were no meetings for Faculty Policy and Advocacy Committee (FPAC) in 2017 until November. At the November meeting, the FPAC discussed several ongoing and proposed matters, including the Employment, Poverty and Health Project, the role of FPAC in Evolve, health data, approaches to policy and advocacy for AFPHM and drug reform issues.

The committee met again in February and April 2018. Through both the committee discussed advocacy to take action on PFAS; taking a new public health approach to illicit drugs in Australia; Universal Basic Income (UBI); the Faculty-College relationship and again discussed Evolve and health data.

The FPAC has been involved in various cross-College policy and advocacy matters (see below) and led on the development of a number of important areas. I'd like to highlight a couple of key, important pieces of work that the committee is in the process of progressing.

Firstly, the Employment, Poverty and Health project is a key project led by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) in collaboration with our Faculty. Our February meeting was joined by Dr Andrew Jeremijenko and A/Professor Peter Connaughton, President of AFOEM and we discussed plans for and beyond a scoping exercise, intended to identify documents related to employment, poverty and health and the social determinants of health (SDoH) more broadly from other medical Colleges and organisations in Australasia and abroad. This critical work was conducted by Claire Celia, a senior policy officer in the College, and aims to identify key areas of action where physicians can have the most impact; and practical strategies employed by relevant stakeholders in this area.

While still in a development stage, this work may produce a Statement of Principles, distilling key messages with a focus on the role of doctors in addressing the social determinants of health including promoting the health benefits of good work, with a potential launch at RACP Congress 2019 in Auckland. Other possibilities include the development of practical tools for tackling SDoH; formation of a Special Interest Group; and a consensus statement on SDoH in collaboration with other medical colleges.

Secondly, the committee is unanimous in its commitment to progressing work on a new public health approach to illicit drugs in Australia. This arises out of an increasing understanding that our current approach to illegal drugs is ineffective, expensive and harmful and that a compassionate and progressive approach means framing it in a health paradigm and not a criminal justice paradigm. The Faculty's role in speaking up for the marginalised in society; addressing social determinants of health; and advocating for system change is fundamental to its role and identity so facilitating this paradigm shift should rightly sit as a core piece of work. This work is nearing a stage where it will be shared with the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine and other key stakeholders within and outside the College. There are no illusions as to the



challenges of bringing such a policy to fruition, but the recognition of the importance of it, as well as the robust evidence base and global shift in perspective, means that now is the right time to push for change.

### **Other contributions to RACP policy and advocacy matters in 2017-2018:**

#### ***Joint matters in collaboration with other College bodies:***

*Co-led with the Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM):*

- College submission and advocacy - Inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017
- College submission and advocacy - Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Drug Testing Trial) Bill 2018
- Submission and advocacy -Victorian Parliament Inquiry into the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2017
- Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the provision of drug rehabilitation services in regional, rural and remote New South Wales

*Co-led with the Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM):*

Joint AFOEM/AFPAM submission and advocacy to the Australian Government regarding banning the use of Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This submission received media coverage in print and radio:

- [ABC News](#) online
- Newcastle Herald: <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5290754/experts-demand-clarity-amid-the-pfas-confusion/> and <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5289222/doctors-slam-governments-stance-on-williamtown-chemicals/>
- ABC Radio Darwin

#### ***AFPAM feedback on:***

- College endorsement of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Position Statement: Exercise in Cancer Care
- College submission to the Australian Draft National Alcohol Strategy 2018-2026
- College submission letter to the Queensland Law Reform Commission on its review of termination of pregnancy laws in Queensland
- College submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Macrolide Antibiotics Review
- College submission to the WA Alcohol and Youth Action Coalition (WAAYAC) and McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth (MCAAY) Draft Report on Minimum Pricing of Alcohol
- College submission to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's (AHPPC) *Action Plan: Enhanced response to addressing sexually transmitted infections (and blood borne viruses) in Indigenous Populations*
- College submission to the WA State Government Sustainable Health Review Interim Report
- College submission to Closing the Gap Refresh consultation
- Draft College obesity position statement
- Draft College position on End-of-life and Physician Assisted Dying



Other matters in development:

- Evolve scoping document: Development of Public Health Top 5 List
- Improved access to and use of health data
- CHild Injury Prevention Alliance (CHIPA)

The Committee also remains engaged with the College's *Climate Change and Health Advocacy Strategy* through Faculty Council and individual committee members' interest and involvement in other relevant College committees.

*Dr Brett Sutton,  
FPAC Chair*

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## Faculty Prize Winners – 2017/ 2018

### ▪ *Gerry Murphy Prize – 2017 Finalists*

Dr Gerry Murphy was a Founding Fellow of AFPHM and a Fellow of AFOEM, who passed away in December 1995. The family of the late Dr Gerry Murphy FAFPHM made a bequest to the Faculty to support an annual prize in his memory. The prize has been running since 1997.

- ACT Dr Miranda Harris
- NSW Dr Elaine Tennant
- NT *Not awarded 2017*
- QLD Dr Candice Colbran
- SA *Withdrawn*
- TAS Dr Gabriela Willis
- VIC Dr Clare Looker
- WA Dr Sally Singleton

### ▪ *John Snow Scholarship - 2017 Finalists*

The John Snow Scholarship is one of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine's (AFPHM) programs aimed at strengthening and enhancing education in public health medicine at all levels of the career pathway.

- ACT Ms Rachael McCormick
- NSW Mr Arunan Sriravindrarajah
- QLD *No applications received 2017*
- NT *No applications received 2017*
- NZ *No applications received 2017*
- SA Ms Alisha Thompson
- VIC Mr Ned Latham
- WA Ms Alexandra Carle
- TAS Miss Dipti Sugumar

### ▪ *President's Awards*

The AFPHM President's Award for outstanding contribution to the Faculty was established by the Faculty Council in 2008. The purpose of the President's Award is to formally recognise the outstanding contributions made by Fellows and Trainees to the Faculty.

- Education, Training and Assessment – Dr Judy Straton (WA)
- Policy and Advocacy – Dr Marianne Jauncey (NSW)
- Trainee Commitment Award – Dr Aditya Vyas (NSW)



- *Sue Morey Medal*

The AFPHEM Sue Morey Medal is awarded to a trainee who has shown outstanding achievement in the AFPHEM Oral Examination. The medallist for the 2017 AFPHEM Oral Examination is Dr Annaliese van Diemen (VIC).