

COLLEGE POLICY & ADVOCACY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE: MEETING OF 31 OCTOBER 7 1 NOVEMBER

The College Policy and Advocacy Council (P&A Council) met on Wednesday 31 October and Thursday 1 November 2018, with 19 of the 28 representatives of College bodies who sit on CPAC Council represented.

Highlights

The main item of discussion was how the College might delegate some authority for policy and advocacy to the College bodies. With an aim of improving agility and membership engagement in this area, an approach was discussed in the meeting. A model will be further developed and finalised by the CPAC Council and then sent out to CPAC Council members for consultation with their respective College Division, Faculty, Chapter or Committee they represent.

CPAC Council noted with appreciation the success in policy and advocacy over the past year, which has been achieved by College members and with the support of the P&A team including:

- accelerated silicosis,
- child health action plan, and
- kids off Nauru.

CPAC Council recognised that the P&A team is now at capacity and accepted internal and external advice that for College-wide initiatives it is better to focus on fewer issues with greater clarity of the impact desired. It was acknowledged that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and Maori populations should be considered in all P&A priorities, in an appropriate and meaningful way. CPAC Council considered proposals for new priorities and developed a short list for further consideration comprising:

- member well-being,
- future workforce,
- obesity, and
- the first 1000 days of life.

Meeting outcomes

Outcomes from the meeting included:

- Success for P&A by the College should be measured in changes achieved (attitude, knowledge, services, policy, legislation); and to achieve this we will require membership engagement, community trust, strong key relationships/partnerships.
- The lifting of membership engagement in P&A is critical; realisation of the knowledge of what is being done in P&A within the membership is currently limited.
- The beginnings for a model for delegation was outlined:

- central management of key cross-College priorities,
- a middle tier of issues that might have lighter central co-ordination with College body lead, and
- thirdly, local/specialty issues being generated and managed by the College bodies but keeping the P&A team informed so that they can identify and alert to risks, in particular ensure that involvement of other College bodies as appropriate occurs.
- A model for allocating resources is still to be developed, but principles agreed were, each College body needs a contact person, with a need for some flexibility in allocation of resources to College bodies to smooth peaks and troughs of workload (both time and level of interest in this area by College body).
- Spokespeople for a particular issue to be appointed on merit not position in the College, and development of a number of Twitter accounts for the various College bodies – with media training and guidelines.
- It is better to focus on a few priorities and do them well – we need to get better at not doing things in this area. Criteria we use for prioritisation were re-endorsed.
- Recognition that there is a great benefit in having a reasonable allocation of resources held for responsive P&A activity.
- The meeting also included a panel session with Annette Schmeide (Head of BUPA Foundation, long term senior health manager), Bennie Ng (Strategy, Healthscope) and Adam Elshaug (low value care, Uni of Sydney).

Next steps

CPAC Council Advisory Committee (a group of 9 who will be re-named to the Executive Committee) to finalise draft proposal for delegation. This will then go out to CPAC Council who will undertake consultations within their College bodies.

CPAC Council will finalise their 2019 work plan ready for progression to Board early next year.

The dates proposed for CPAC Council in 2019 are, 22 May 2019 and 20 November 2019.

Professor Niki Ellis

Chair, College Policy and Advocacy Council