

COMMUNIQUÉ

College Council

of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

The College Council met virtually on 31 March 2026.

Victorian and Tasmanian Committee Updates

The College Council received updates from the Deputy Chair of the Victorian Committee and the Chair of the Tasmanian Committee on their respective committee 2026 objectives, current activities, and challenges.

The Victorian Committee highlighted education as a key strength, with the long-case preparation series achieving strong engagement and potential to return in 2027. Leadership transitions and low membership were noted as ongoing challenges for the committee, with declining member engagement at the state level also identified as a concern. Advocacy and education remain priorities, alongside opportunities to strengthen engagement through upcoming local events. The President, Paediatrics and Child Health Division and member of College Council, offered to attend a future Victorian Committee meeting to connect with representatives and support local engagement and sustainability.

The Tasmanian Committee continues to deliver strong outcomes despite its small size, with active contributions to advocacy, workforce, and trainee support, including engagement with state stakeholders and participation in parliamentary inquiries in collaboration with the College's Policy and Advocacy team. Workforce and training progression remain key priorities, with initiatives underway to improve trainee recruitment and retention in Tasmania. The Committee also highlighted ongoing collaboration with state partners, including the Tasmanian Health Senate, and continued progress in preventive health initiatives through shared and practical approaches.

College Council 2026 Work Plan

The draft 2026 work plan, aligned to the RACP Strategic Direction 2026–2030, was discussed. The work plan sets out both key strategic initiatives and ongoing business-as-usual activities for College Council. The proposed priority initiative for 2026 reflects the College's strategic goals and focus areas for the year. It was resolved to endorse the 2026 work plan for submission to the Board for approval.

College Council By-law

Amendments to the College Council By-law were considered to enable Chairs of committees to delegate to other committee members and to reduce the minimum number of meetings from six to four per year. Both amendments provide flexibility in the operation of the College Council. Amendments were endorsed for Board approval.

Policy and Advocacy Update

The College Dean provided an update on recent activities across the Office of the Dean and Policy and Advocacy. Key points included workforce insights, advocacy priorities such as patient-focused initiatives and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and emerging areas including artificial intelligence and physician associates. Council noted a review of grant programs, sustainable funding, and enhancing engagement with members and external stakeholders.

Member-centric Service Knowledge

An update was provided by the Member Services team including plans for the 2026 Member Satisfaction Survey. Members acknowledged improvements in services and highlighted the importance of culturally safe engagement, timely handling of complaints, and accessible support.

Feedback was provided on ways to strengthen member engagement and survey effectiveness, including pulse surveys, multiple response options, and incentives to increase completion and get valuable data.

Any questions and comments are welcomed via Council@racp.edu.au

Dr Tony Gill
Acting Chair, College Council