

## **By-law**

# **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee**

**BY-LAW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD TO BE KNOWN AS THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER HEALTH COMMITTEE**

## CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE.....	3
2	THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH COMMITTEE.....	3
3	REPORTING .....	4
4	MEETINGS .....	4
5	DEFINITIONS.....	5

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The College Policy and Advocacy Committee (“CPAC”) has, pursuant to the CPAC By-Laws, established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee (the Committee). Following the meeting December 2019 the Committee is established as a committee of the Board to operate in accordance with this By-law (*the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee By-law***).
- 1.2 The Committee was established to strengthen the College’s capacity to develop a coordinated College approach to improving the health and social outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.
- 1.3 The responsibilities of the Committee will have a strong focus on coordinating issues of immediate interest to the College and its Fellows, specifically:
  - 1.3.1 Providing advice to the Board on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and social policy and advocacy;
  - 1.3.2 Providing advice to the Board on matters relating to workforce development and education and training;
  - 1.3.3 Representing the College on Government, professional and community groups and other forums related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health;
  - 1.3.4 Facilitating the development and maintenance of partnerships, relationships and linkages with key stakeholders;
  - 1.3.5 Leading, advising and supporting the development of policies and positions that address matters concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.
- 1.4 The positions that underpin this By-law are as follows:
  - 1.4.1 The acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as first peoples and the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights as Indigenous people;
    - 1.4.1.1 The College supports the Constitutional recognition of Australia’s first peoples and recognises the health benefits of genuine reconciliation;
  - 1.4.2 The acknowledgement of the value and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait leadership to the Australian health system;
  - 1.4.3 The importance of human rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ advancement;
  - 1.4.4 The recognition and honouring of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews in relation to health and wellbeing;
  - 1.4.5 The necessity for partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
  - 1.4.6 The ongoing support to help close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous life-expectancy and health outcomes.
- 1.5 In connection with the purpose of the Committee, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee is to encourage diversity in membership, including diversity on the basis of gender, ethnicity and geography.

## 2 THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH COMMITTEE

- 2.1 **Committee prohibitions**  
The Committee must not:

- 2.1.1 enter into any agreement binding upon it or on the College; or
- 2.1.2 represent or imply in any way that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee is a body independent of the College.

## **2.2 Composition of the Committee**

Up to 12 members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board and the Committee shall comprise:

- 2.2.1 At least six (6) Members of the College, including:
  - 2.2.1.1 the Chair of the College Policy and Advocacy Committee;
  - 2.2.1.2 a College trainee representative;
- 2.2.2 Up to four (4) community members, either individual or organisational, comprising:
  - 2.2.2.1 One representative of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association nominated by that organisation;
  - 2.2.2.2 One representative of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation nominated by that organisation; and
  - 2.2.2.3 One male and one female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

From the Committee membership there shall be:

- 2.2.3 A minimum of one (1) Torres Strait Islander person;
- 2.2.4 At least 50% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation.

## **2.3 Chairing arrangements**

- 2.3.1 On the recommendation of the Committee, in accordance with the Constitution, the Board will appoint one of the members of the Committee as Chair of the Committee.
- 2.3.2 The Chair of the Committee must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- 2.3.3 The Committee may appoint one of the members of the Committee as Deputy Chair of the Committee to further the purposes of the Committee.
- 2.3.4 The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee are preferably Members of the College.

## **2.4 Sub-committees**

The Committee may, subject to the Board's approval, create such other committees or time-limited or specific purpose working groups as the Committee may determine from time to time.

## **3 REPORTING**

- 3.1 The Committee will report to the Board as required by the Board from time to time.
  - 3.1.1 The Committee will provide the Committee's yearly work-plan to the Board at the first opportunity each year.
- 3.2 The Committee may make exception reports to the Board to address emergent or risk management issues as required.

## **4 MEETINGS**

**4.1** The Committee shall meet face-to-face approximately two times per calendar year.

**4.2** The Committee shall meet via teleconference as needed.

## **5 DEFINITIONS**

“College” means The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (ACN 000 039 047), an incorporated body limited by guarantee.

“College Board” means the Board of Directors of the College.

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the College as amended from time to time.

“CPAC” means the College Policy and Advocacy Committee

Approved by the College Policy and Advocacy Committee on: **10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Updated and approved by the Board on: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020