

Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

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Associated RACP Documents	Governance of College Body By-law, Appointments to College Bodies Policy, RACP Constitution
Applicability	Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

Note: This is a controlled document within the [RACP Policy Framework](#). The Framework covers all RACP policies, procedures, by-laws, terms of reference, guidelines, forms and so forth. Any new documents or amendments of existing documents or changes to approver, owner or area of college should be done in accordance with the RACP Policy Framework and Document Control (RACP Policy Framework) Procedure.

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1. INTRODUCTION

These Terms of Reference are to be read in conjunction with the Governance of College Bodies By-law. Both the Governance of College Bodies By-law and these Terms of Reference govern the College Body.

1.1. Established

The Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee is established under the authority of the College Policy and Advocacy Council (CPAC) to perform the Functions set out in these Terms of Reference and all matters ancillary to those functions.

1.2. Term

The original Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee Terms of Reference were approved in 2020. The term of the updated Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) is for 3 years with an option for CPAC to approve an extension.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for engagement and collaboration for medical colleges on climate change and health policy and advocacy. It will inform the development of sector-wide approaches to climate change and health policy and advocacy positions, strategies and activities. It is not a decision-making body and will refer outputs to CPAC for approval.

The original Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee successfully worked to publicly promote the recommendations of the expert report, [Climate Change and Australia's healthcare systems](#). The recommendations of the expert report informed the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' (RACP) public advocacy [Healthy Climate Future](#) Campaign, which has been endorsed by medical colleges from the original Advisory Committee.

To continue to unite medical colleges on climate change action, the RACP is continuing the public conversation on climate risks to Australian healthcare systems, how the sector can better adapt to and mitigate these risks, build resilience to climate impacts, and then adopt appropriate advocacy activities. The revised terms of reference also allow for greater involvement of medical colleges in Aotearoa New Zealand climate change and health policy and advocacy activities.

The Advisory Committee may provide input to and advice on climate change and health policy and advocacy documents; however the Advisory Committee does not have any decision making delegation. Endorsements of documents, media and communications will be sought separately from the participating Colleges to ensure appropriate governance of decision making.

3. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee are to:

- a) Act as an advisory and recommending body and adopt a national perspective that considers the health impact of climate change across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand;

- b) Support the implementation of recommendations from the RACP's [Climate Change and Australia's healthcare systems](#) which have informed the development of the Healthy Climate Future campaign's public policy recommendations
- c) Unite medical colleges on national and bi-national approaches to climate change and health policy positions, strategies, advocacy, campaigns and action;
- d) Adopt a leadership role in climate change and health system related mitigation, adaptation and resilience building at local, state, national and bi-national levels;
- e) Consider a range of expert input, including case studies from communities of a range of socio-economic backgrounds, demographics, and Indigenous and rural communities; relevant perspectives from front-line health professionals, Fellows and trainees; identifying relevant data and research;
- f) Provide advice on potential updates required to public policy recommendations, based on evidence and expertise;
- g) Build capacity for collective advocacy to adapt to and mitigate the risks posed by climate change to Australian healthcare systems;
- h) Provide a forum for sharing ideas and building partnerships to strengthen strategies for health system reform, create a platform for advocacy, and to prevent duplication of research and policy work; and
- i) Build a strong and united voice that provides access to decision-makers when discussing priorities and approaches to climate change and health.

4. MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

Each participating medical college must undertake their own internal selection or appointment process to nominate one member of their respective medical college to be their Advisory Committee representative.

Participating colleges are encouraged to put forward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Māori Representatives.

The RACP Advisory Committee Representative will be selected through an expression of interest process.

In addition to the Representative for each participating Medical College, the Advisory Committee will have a Chair appointed by the RACP.

Representatives will:

- a) have expertise in climate change and health, which may include knowledge, skills and experience in public and private practice, healthcare system reform, epidemiology, health economics, planetary health, and climate risk analysis and adaptation;
- b) be available to attend video/teleconference meetings and be able to review documents via email as required; and

- c) have connections and networks with their college committees and membership and a willingness to engage in advocacy initiatives.

The membership of the Advisory Committee will be circulated to all participating medical colleges once confirmed.

4.1. Resourcing and Operations

Participating medical colleges will:

- a) cover any costs associated with their Representative's participation in the Advisory Committee;
- b) provide staff support for their Representative's participation in the Advisory Committee;
- c) provide staff support for consultation and approval processes with their own Medical College committees and other bodies as required; and
- d) identify and provide contact details of a Staff Liaison for the Advisory Committee and Report work.

The RACP will:

- a) provide policy, advocacy, campaigns and media support, where feasible, to advance climate change and health advocacy in partnership with participating medical colleges ;
- b) provide secretariat and policy support to the Advisory Committee, where feasible;
- c) engage with key stakeholder organisations and governments to advance climate and health advocacy, including shared objectives of the Advisory Committee
- d) produce policy, advocacy and communications materials in relation to the Healthy Climate Future Campaign, which will be authorised by RACP.

The Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with these Terms of Reference; and RACP policies and procedures, including the Working Together and Code of Conduct policies.

Participating medical colleges may be asked from time to time if they would like to contribute funds towards outputs and materials. Individual medical colleges will be responsible for considering these requests on a case-by-case basis. Contributions are voluntary; there is no membership fee or minimum funding requirement for membership of the Advisory Committee. Reporting of any election expenditure is the responsibility of individual colleges.

5. MEETING

This section is to be read in conjunction with the Governance of College Bodies By-law.

5.1. Number of Meetings

The Advisory Committee's work will take place online including via email, phone, video/teleconference and other communication and document sharing services.

The Advisory Committee will hold no more than twelve video/teleconference meetings per calendar year, unless otherwise approved by the CPAC Executive Committee (CPAC EC).

5.2. Chair

The Chair or their appointee will Chair all meetings.

5.3. Secretariat

The Advisory Committee will be supported by a Policy Officer from the RACP Policy & Advocacy Team and other College staff as required.

This will include support for scheduling and preparation for meetings, and noting actions from meetings as well as additional research, policy and advocacy support as required, where feasible.

Meeting agendas, supporting papers and minutes or outcomes will be provided prior to the date of the meeting.

6. REPORTING

The Advisory Committee will report to the CPAC EC.

The Advisory Committee may provide reports to relevant bodies of other Participating medical colleges as requested in writing to the RACP.

Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee

7. DEFINITIONS

Term	Means
College Body	Has the same meaning as in the College Constitution
College Policy and Advocacy Council Executive Committee (CPAC)	RACP body that makes decisions on policy and advocacy matters in between meetings of the RACP's peak policy and advocacy body, the College Policy and Advocacy Council.
Conflict of Interest	Has the same meaning as the Governance of College Bodies By-law
Ex-officio	Has the same meaning as the Governance of College Bodies By-law
Medical College	Any of the following organisations: Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Australasian College of Sports and Exercise Physician (ACSEP) Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) College of Intensive Care Medicine (CICM) Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Royal College of Pathologists of Australia (RCPA).
Member	A Fellow or Trainee of a Medical College as defined in accordance with the respective Medical College's By-laws or constitution.
Member of a College Body	Has the same meaning as the Governance of College Bodies By-law
Member of the RACP	Has the same meaning as the Governance of College Bodies By-law
Parent Body	Has the same meaning as the Governance of College Bodies By-law
Participating Medical College	A Medical College that has accepted the RACP's invitation to be involved in the Climate Change and Health Research Project.
Representative	A Member nominated by their respective Medical College for membership of the Multi-College Advisory Committee.
RACP	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, an incorporated body limited by guarantee ACN 000 039 047.

8. HISTORY

Commencement		
The initial Terms of Reference were approved by the College Policy and Advocacy Council (CPAC) and commenced on 8 October 2020 to support the formation of the Climate Change and Health Steering Group.		
Revision	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
1	08/10/2020	Climate Change and Health Multi-College Steering Group Terms of Reference, approved by CPAC.
2	29/09/2022	Terms of Reference updated to reflect change of committee name to Climate Change and Health Multi-College Advisory Committee and renewed purpose, approved by CPAC.
3	10/05/2024	Terms of Reference updated to include Trainees and encourage Māori members to join in addition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members, approved by CPAC.