



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

**MINUTES OF THE 74TH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS (“RACP” or “the College”)**

Meeting No. 74

Date and Venue: The Riverside Theatre
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road,
Perth, Western Australia, 6000

Monday 27 May 2013

Time: 12.30pm (WST)

Attendees

As per the attached attendance register plus the following non-voting attendees:-

Mr Walter Edgar	Director, Business, IT and Finance
Ms Linda Smith	Director, Fellowship Relations
Mr Michael Smith	Company Secretary
Mr Graeme Small	Representative of the external auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Limited, by teleconference

Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Clinical Associate Professor Michael Hooper, Honorary Treasurer

Dr Jenny Ault

Dr David Burke

Associate Professor Merrole Cole-Sinclair

Professor Ian Davis

Professor Paul Goldwater

Dr Geoff Matthews

Professor Max Swarz

Professor Jeanette Ward

1. OPENING THE MEETING

The President, Associate Professor Leslie Bolitho AM, as Chair, declared the meeting open at 12.40pm, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The President acknowledged the Noongar People as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which the meeting is being held. The President also paid respect to the Elders both past and present and extended that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present today.

Members of the Board, together with the College's Chief Executive Officer, Director Business, IT and Finance, and Company Secretary were introduced to the meeting. The meeting was also advised that a representative of the College's external auditors, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Limited was available to answer any members' questions on the conduct of the audit of the College's 2012 Financial Statement and Reports and on any related matters.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

The President advised that the meeting was convened by way of Notice mailed to all Members, and also posted to the College's website so will be taken as read.

Only one item of business will be voted on today being the appointment of Grant Thornton Audit Pty Limited as the College's external auditor.

The other items of business are for information only.

The meeting was also advised that the Board supports the appointment of Grant Thornton Audit Pty Limited as the College's external auditor and recommends the approval of the resolution by Members.

3. PROXIES/ ONLINE VOTING

The Meeting was advised that a number of proxies have been received. Members also had the opportunity to vote online and a number chose to do so. Details of these votes cast for the Resolution to be considered will be provided later in the Meeting.

The President further advised that he intends to vote "open" proxies provided to him as Chair of the meeting in favour of the Resolution, if required.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

The President advised the Meeting that voting on the Resolution will be by way of a show of hands.

The Resolution will be put to the meeting and Members will be provided with the opportunity to make comment or ask any questions before the Resolution is voted on.

5. REPORT TO THE BOARD

The President's and Chief Executive Officer's Reports were presented to the Meeting, being included in the College's 2012 Annual Report.

The President's Report was taken as read and the CEO briefly addressed the Meeting outlining a number of initiatives introduced and achievements for the 2012 year.

There was no discussion or questions on those Reports.

6. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

In the absence of the Honorary Treasurer, John O'Donnell as Assistant Honorary Treasurer, and a College Director and member of the Finance Committee, presented the Honorary Treasurer's Report and introduced the financial statements and reports for the year ended 31 December 2012.

There was no discussion or questions on those Statements and Reports.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The President advised the Meeting that, as was detailed in the Notice of Meeting, BDO Audit (NSW-VIC) Pty Limited was appointed as the College's external auditors in 2011, after a competitive tender process, and conducted the audit of the College's 2011 Annual Financial Statement and Reports.

In mid-2012, BDO was acquired and became part of the firm Grant Thornton, who conducted the audit of the College's 2012 Annual Financial Statements and Reports considered earlier.

As technically it was a new firm conducting the audit, the Board confirmed Grant Thornton's appointment in July 2012, as a casual vacancy to hold office until this Annual General Meeting whereupon Grant Thornton must retire and seek re-appointment by Members as the College's auditors.

The Board has confirmed its support for the re-appointment of Grant Thornton as the College's auditors and recommends that Members vote in favour of the Resolution.

The President then moved as an ordinary resolution that the meeting "confirm the appointment of Grant Thornton Audit Pty Limited as the external auditor of the College."

The following proxy and online votes received in relation to this Resolution were displayed to the Meeting:-

FOR	OPEN	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	TOTAL
691	90	10	45	836

There were no questions or comments and the Resolution was passed on a show of hands without dissent.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Before closing the Meeting, the President advised that he wished to advise Members present of two questions received and the responses provided:-

Question 1

Issues concerning the publication of College proprietary information:

- When will there be open disclosure to the broader "Fellowship" that "research" has been conducted on a large number of Fellows without consent nor ethical approval, and that this "research" has been published?
- What steps are being taken to address this matter, both in terms of advising Fellows and in terms of corrective action with the journal?
- On what basis does the College and/or its advisors consider that Fellows "researched" do not have the right to know about this in a timely way? and
- Several Fellows have suggested that an independent investigation be conducted and the findings disclosed. This has not occurred? Why?

The following response was provided:-

"Your questions relate to a matter that is still under investigation within the College, and the outcome has yet to be considered by the College's Risk Management Committee, who is overseeing the investigation, or by the Board.

I am sure you will appreciate that in such circumstances it would be premature and potentially misleading to the College's membership for any public comments to be made at this time, before the investigation has concluded and its findings considered".

Question 2

The recent announcement of a work related self-education expense deduction to an annual \$2000 cap from 1 July next year is a very significant concern for training and education for Members of the College. Does the College intend to oppose this matter with both the Government and the Opposition? As it relates directly to education and training it is presumably the business of the College.

The following response was provided:-

"The College has not been silent on this issue as follows:-

This decision was announced without consultation, and the College has strongly represented its opposition. In a media release responding to the budget, the RACP President, Associate Professor Leslie E. Bolitho AM made a number of the points as you did in your question:-

Medical practitioners have significant responsibilities to engage in Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") as a means of enhancing their knowledge, skills and keeping track of developments in their profession. This frequently requires attending a range of educational courses, conferences, and workshops throughout their working lives.

According to Associate Professor Bolitho, patients' are the ultimate beneficiaries of these self-education efforts through increased quality of care.

"While the RACP understands the need for the Commonwealth to look for budgetary savings, the value of the cap being proposed has been set unrealistically low at least in the case of medical practitioners.

"The average cost of an education course attended is typically well above \$2000, particularly when airfares (economy within Australia and New Zealand), ground transport including airport parking, hotel accommodation (standard rooms) and conference registration are included.

"Rural physicians are especially disadvantaged by this cap because they also have to incur higher travel expenses than physicians located in metropolitan areas in order to meet the requirements of their CPD.

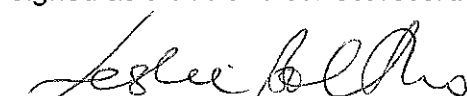
"The RACP calls on the Commonwealth to at least reconsider the value of its proposed cap on self-education expenses."

In addition, the College through the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges is making representations to the Federal Government seeking a reconsideration of this budget decision.

The College is also preparing a formal response to the Budget, which comments on, or makes representations on, all initiatives of concern and relevance to the College and its Members, including the proposed cap on self-education expenses. The College's Policy and Advocacy Unit is planning to seek comments and feedback from Fellows and Trainees in e-Bulletins from this week until 7 June to document their experiences with the average cost of further education and training including incidentals such as travel to conferences and accommodation costs. The responses received will form part of the evidence base of the College's response".

There being no further business the President thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12.55pm.

Signed as a true and correct record



Associate Professor Leslie Bolitho AM
President

Date 8 AUGUST 2013

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 27 May, 2013

Type	Card	Code	Name	Votes
			CHAIRMAN	**
			CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING	**
			DR CHRIS POULOS	**
			DR LES BOLITHO	**
			MR JOHN O'DONNELL	**
			PROF NICK TALLEY	**
			SUSAN MALONEY	**
			Total Nominated Persons = 7	
			ACKLAND, MICHAEL	1
			ALEXANDER, ION	1
			ALEXANDER, JENNIFER	1
			ANDERSON, DONALD	1
			ASHWELL, MARGARET	1
			BLAIR, NICHOLAS	1
			BOLITHO, LESLIE	1
			CAMERON, DONALD	1
			COHEN, ALEXANDER	1
			COOK, TERENCE	1
			CROUCH, ALISA	1
			DALTON, SARAH	1
			DIMMITT, SIMON	1
			DREWRY, ALISON	1
			FARINOLA, NICHOLAS	1
			GNANAHARAN, CHELLIAH	1
			GODDARD, DAVID	1
			GORDON, ANDREW	1
			GUEST, CHARLES	1



THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

ATTENDEE BY TYPE REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 27 May, 2013

Type	Card	Code	Name	Notes
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HALL, GRAHAM	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HEALY, HELEN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	HURLEY, DAVID	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	LANE, MARK	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MACDONALD, ALASDAIR	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MARNOCH, CATHERINE	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MOLONEY, SUSAN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MOREY, PATRICIA	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MURDOCK, NICOLA	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	NEWCOMBE, JAMES	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	O'DONNELL, JOHN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PHELPS, GRANT	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	POULOS, CHRISTOPHER	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	RHODES, HELEN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ROBERTSON, ANNE	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ROSS, JAMES	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ROSS, VICTORIA	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	RYAN, SIMONE	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SLEIGH, KEVIN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	STOKES, MARIE-LOUISE	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	TALLEY, NICHOLAS	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	TALLEY, NICHOLAS	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	TRAUB, MAX	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	WATSON, DAVID	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	WEBSTER, PENELOPE	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	WILSON, JOHN	1
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	YELLAND, CATHERINE	1
			Total Voting Attendees = 46	46



THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

ATTENDEE BY TYPE REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 27 May, 2013

Type	Card	Code	Name	Votes
------	------	------	------	-------

** For Votes held by these Nominated Persons refer to the Nominated Persons Summary Report.

Total Holders = 53
Total Visitors = 0
Total Attendees = 53

46