

EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

### MINUTES OF THE 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ("RACP" or "the College")

Meeting No.

79

Date and Venue:

Monday 14 May 2018

Room C2.5 and C2.6

International Convention Centre 14 Darling Drive, Sydney NSW 200

Time:

12.30 (AEST)

#### Attendees:

As per the attached attendance lists supplied by the registry.

#### Apologies:

Apologies were received from Directors: -

Dr Tina Marinelli

Mr Peter Martin

And from the following Members: -

**Dr Kerry Chant** 

A/Professor Merrole Cole-Sinclair

Dr Fran McGrath

Dr Geoff Matthews

Dr Barbara Orchard

Dr Alan Soward

A/Professor Senator

Dr Isla Williams

Professor Ian Wronski

#### 1. OPENING THE MEETING

The President, Dr Catherine Yelland, as Chair of the meeting, noted that a quorum of Members was present and declared the meeting open.

The start of the meeting was delayed by 15 minutes from the scheduled time to allow late arrivals to be registered and admitted to the meeting.

Acknowledgement was paid to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation who were the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which this meeting was taking place.

Respect was also paid to the Elders both past and present and extended to any other Indigenous Australians who may be present today.

The President-Elect, Associate Professor Mark Lane and the College's Honorary Treasurer, Associate Professor Charles Steadman were introduced to the meeting as were the College's CEO, Mrs Linda Smith and Secretary, Mr Michael Smith.

Other Directors were seated in front of the meeting and were acknowledged by the President during this introduction.

Representatives from the College's external auditors, Grant Thornton Pty Limited, were also present to answer any questions Members may have on the audit of the College's 2017 Financial Statements and Reports.

#### 2. NOTICE OF MEETING

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

The items of business for the meeting were for information only. No items required Members to vote.

The items of business were: -

- 1. Report of the Board
- 2. Annual Financial Report
- 3. Declaration of the Results of the Election of Members to the Board in place of those retiring.

#### 3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

#### 3.1 Report of the Board

The President's and the Chief Executive Officer's Reports respectively were presented to the meeting, being included in the College's 2017 Annual Report, which as noted has been posted to the College's web-site.

The President then addressed the meeting providing an overview of achievements over the last year in the context of the College's three core purposes being to educate, advocate and innovate as Specialists Together.

A copy of the President's address is attached to these minutes.

The meeting was then opened to questions from Members present. A number of questions were asked which have been summarised with the responses provided, in an attachment to these minutes.

#### 3.2 Annual Financial Report

The College's Honorary Treasurer took the 2017 Annual Financial Report as read and provided his report to the meeting, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

A question was put to the Honorary Treasurer as to the financial implications of the written exam failure last February, in particular: -

- Any estimate available as to the cost of the failure;
- The limit of Pearson Vue's liability;
- Will insurance cover the gap between the costs incurred by the College and any amount recovered from Pearson Vue.

In response the Honorary Treasurer advised that some these matters remain commercial in confidence, and no claim has been formally lodged with the College's insurer at this point pending finalisation of the quantum, but insurers have been put on notice of the event which may give rise to a claim. The College has reimbursed trainees for the fees charged to sit the written exam in February that was subsequently cancelled, and Pearson Vue has in turn reimbursed the College accordingly. The College's insurers are likely to seek compensation from Pearson Vue before they pay out any claim made by the College.

A second question was raised alleging an embezzlement that purportedly occurred a number of years ago in the College's Victorian State Office.

The Honorary Treasurer advised that this matter has been investigated and no evidence to support that allegation has been found. The College's auditor took the question on notice but also advised the meeting that during their time as the College's auditors they had not uncovered any financial irregularities within the College.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his Report and for his contribution to the College's sound financial position and performance during his term of office.

**3.3** Declaration of the Results of the Election of Members to the Board in place those Retiring Before moving to formally declare the results of the recent election of Members to the College Board, the President read the following statement to the meeting: -

"As Members will be aware, the College elections for the new Board were recently completed and the results announced. As part of that announcement, it was mentioned that the College had received a number of complaints from Members in relation to the conduct of certain candidates during the course of that election. As a consequence, the Board appointed the independent forensic investigation firm, Korda Mentha, to conduct an investigation into those complaints and we have now received an interim Report.

The Board met last Saturday and one of the items on the Agenda was the consideration of this Report. The Board resolved to require Korda Mentha to complete its report, which will be provided to the incoming Board when finalised. The Board also urged the new Board to make the findings of Korda Mentha's investigation available to you, our Members, in a spirit of openness and transparency."

The President then confirmed that Associate Professor Mark Lane would assume the Office of President of the College at the conclusion of this meeting and that Professor John Wilson had been elected President-Elect in place of Associate Professor Lane.

The following Members have also been elected to the Board: -

•	Dr Jacqueline Small	Elected for a three-year term
•	Professor Paul Komesaroff	Elected for a three-year term
•	Professor Niki Ellis	Elected for a two-year term
•	Dr Alice Grev	Elected unopposed for a two-year term

In addition, Dr Jeff Brown remains on the Board having assumed the position of New Zealand President from the conclusion of this meeting.

The President congratulated each of the incoming Directors on their election to, or continuation on, the Board.

The President also thanked each of the retiring Directors for their support and for their valuable contributions to the work of the Board and the governance of the College over the past two years: -

- A/Professor Nick Buckmaster
- Dr Jonathan Christiansen
- Professor Paul Colditz
- A/Professor Andrew Cole
- A/Professor Peter Connaughton (Who resigned from the Board earlier this year)
- Dr Sarah Dalton

- Professor Lynne Madden
- Dr Tina Marinelli
- Mr Peter Martin
- A/Professor Grant Phelps
- Dr Helen Rhodes
- A/Professor Charles Steadman
- Ms Susan Tiffin
- Dr Susannah Ward

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There being no further business, the President thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1.35pm.

Signed as a true and correct record

Professor Mark Lane
President



#### 79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL Annexure to the Minutes of the Meeting

Questions asked on agenda items: The Report of the Board

Question	Response
Were the recent elections conducted fairly and appropriately given it would appear that one group of candidates has access to a considerable number of Member's personal emails which other candidates did not?	The College did receive a number of complaints about this issue and as a result retained the independent investigations firm, Korda Mentha, to conduct an inquiry into the matters complained about. As advised in the meeting, Korda Mentha has provided an interim, but incomplete, report to the Board. The Board resolved to instruct Korda Mentha to complete their report, which given its timing will be provided to the new Board. The outgoing Board urged the incoming Board to release the Report in its entirety, in a spirit of openness and transparency, to Members as soon as it becomes available.
It appears the media knew the results of the election before candidates or College Members were advised of the results; this would appear to be an unreasonable position for the College to be in. How did this occur?	We agree it was a most unacceptable occurrence, and it would appear someone who had the information which was confidential at that point, as it had yet to be confirmed by the Returning Officer or by the College appointed scrutineers to oversee the conduct of the voting, for what purpose we do not know. We have attempted to investigate the source of the leaks but were unable to identify who, or by what means, instigated the leak.
It is important that the incoming Board release the Korda Mentha report in its entirety, subject to any redactions required to restore integrity in the College's election processes.	This will be a matter for the incoming Board to determine, but the outgoing Board share that view.
Will the Board commit to release the Ferrier Hodgson report into the failure of the written exams on 19 February 2018?	Ferrier Hodgson's report is yet to be completed and given the timing it will be a matter for the incoming Board to determine. In fact, that Board is meeting tomorrow to consider this very point but I (as incoming President) cannot pre-empt today what the new Board's decision will be.
Why has the College not commented on the recent negative reports in certain parts of the media and advised of all the positives that have been achieved over the past few years?	Despite a number of critics and some negative media, the College can be very proud of its achievements over the past few years due to the efforts of many fellows, trainees and staff but to enable that media to publish positive stories has been difficult, due to a lack of interest. Some parts of the media seem to have been provided with access and information about some College activities and then proceeded to publish a biased

	view with little interest in the College's 'side of things'
The President-Elect read a question on notice to the meeting received from Associate Professor Leslie Bolitho AM, a former President of the College, a copy of which is attached.	The President-Elect also advised that it is his intention, when President, to ensure that the new Board issues the requested public statement to Members once it assumes office and commences its meeting cycle.

Comment	Response
If more time had been devoted to consultation we could have come up with a more feasible solution.  The Faculties have less than 1000 Members and have lost their representative positions on the Board from next year so removing the "100 Member" rule is not in their interests.	
Members are being coerced into voting for something that could have been consulted on more fully and a consensus position reached.	The College does not condone any form of bullying or coercion in any circumstances.  The College is actively working to prevent bullying wherever it can through the varying initiatives it is engaged in.  Members are not being coerced to vote for this amendment.  The Board has put the amendment to Members to consider and Members will decide whether or not they wish to support the proposal.
There was no "no case" provided in the Notice of Meeting, perhaps a "no case" should have been presented for balance.	Members were basically asked for a "yes" or "no" response to the amendment, if agreed with the amendment then vote "yes" if not then vote "no" and the 100 Member rule will not be removed from the Constitution.  We have included the "no case" in past Notices of Meeting, and if Members consider it to be helpful then we will again in the future.  With respect to this particular amendment we did circulate the "no case" 3 times to all Members by email.
I support the proposed amendment to the Constitution.  There is ample opportunity to bring matters to the AGM each year.  I am concerned about the costs incurred by a small number of Members continuing to have the ability to force the College to have to hold EGM's at any time to deal with matters of particular interest to them but perhaps not to the wider Membership.  Such costs would be better spent supporting the funding of research grants for example.	
Question	Response
Has the Board ever considered compulsory voting given the low turnout of Members who vote in elections and for changes to the Constitution?	I think it would be extremely difficult to enforce compulsory voting in the College.



QUESTION	RESPONSE	
What was the cost of the enquiry into the exam failure? As members will ultimately pay for this I think there should be transparency about all the associated costs of the failure	The inquiry is still ongoing and the final cost not known yet.	
This year, myself and other PREP Basic Trainees will be	The College pricing structure for training is based on a "cost of service".	
charged \$3425.84 for a year. Could the college kindly explain: How my total fees is calculated?	<ul> <li>Costs are split into fixed and variable costs. Fixed costs are those incurred irrespective of the volume of individuals involved in a transaction e.g. Hire of a venue, College overheads. Variable costs are those costs dependant on volume such as catering for the number of attendees. The total cost is determined by calculating each component of fixed and variable and consolidating these together.</li> <li>Added to the cost is a margin which is required to cover a lower volume than expected or surplus for the College to cover future investments or unknown incidents.</li> </ul>	
	Based on expected volumes, this generates the price to be charged, i.e.: <u>Price = costs + margin (for unforeseen costs).</u>	
	Indicative breakdown of how the RACP spent a single annual trainee fee 2017 How each dollar of an average \$3,427 trainee annual fee was spent in 2017	
	Publications and Communications 4% (\$141)  Policy & Advocacy 5% (\$166)  Governance 9% (\$329)  Membership Services 3% (\$119)  Education – Trainees 68% (\$2326)	
What portion of this fee goes towards activities related directly to the training of my fellow PREP Basic Trainees?	On Page 63 of this year's Annual Report to Members we have provided an indicative breakdown of how your annual training fee is spent.	



Is there any financial reprieve or compassionate grounds considered for those trainees undergoing financial hardship?	Both Fellows and Trainees may request a reduction in fees or exemptions from fees by writing to the Honorary Treasurer. The email address is: Honorary.Treasurer@racp.edu.au.
Can RACP confirm that any of the assets it holds or any investments that are under management, have no exposure to tobacco companies?	With respect to the College's Investment policy/ strategy, it is confirmed that the College follows an Ethical Investment Strategy in that it does not invest in any organisation involved in such activities as alcohol, tobacco, gambling, armaments products or fossil fuel activities or in any activity that is contrary to the College's ethics, standards interests or ideals.
Why can't the RACP run examinations twice per year, like many other College's do?	The College recognises the value of offering a high stakes exam such as the Divisional Written Examinations more than once a year. Not only does it afford trainees more flexibility, it also reduces the burden carried by the health system freeing candidates up for leave. The College also recognises that offering the examination only once per year creates anxiety for trainees due to the potential impact on their progression through training; offering the exam twice per year may assist in easing this anxiety.  The move to computer based testing was a step towards a future where the written exam can be offered more than once a year.  At this time there are insufficient items in our item bank to be able to offer the exam more than once a year. Our capacity to offer the examination twice or more a year is determined by the number of validated items (questions) in our examination bank. Items for examinations are written by our Fellows on a pro-bono basis and go through a thorough review process. The time commitment required to write items is significant, and we appreciate the generosity of our Fellows undertaking this work. The writing and review process takes time, and with the current number of Fellows involved we are limited in the number of items that can be created, without the engagement of a larger number of Fellows. The College is looking at a number of strategies to enable the creation of more items without imposing additional pressure on the current groups.
Why doesn't the RACP advocate for part-time training more, e.g. require accredited hospitals to offer to candidates?	The College supports flexible training and offers options for trainees who are unable to train full-time. Further information can be found in the RACP Flexible Training Policy on the College website.  As part of the Education Renewal Program, the College is developing a revised accreditation system. At the end of 2018, new Training Provider Standards will be introduced that will include criteria relating to Trainee Support and Wellbeing. The criteria will require that a trainee has access to flexible work arrangements in accordance with the RACP's Flexible Training Policy. The criteria outline that information on, as well as accessibility to flexible work arrangements are available to



	a trainee and that reasonable steps are taken to accommodate a trainee request to work flexibly.
I ask the President whether the RACP would join in the medical voices urging these large and influential super funds to divest ON HEALTH GROUNDS from the most carbon intensive companies (Tier 1) across their entire investments?	The College has taken its own steps to divest its interests in such activities but takes the view it is up to the members of these Super Funds to advocate with their Trustees as to where they wish their funds to be invested.
I was wondering whether it is possible to delay the due date for the online registration of term rotations for advanced trainees to March 2018. In 2018 the deadline for registration was the 15th February. This can be extremely difficult to complete, especially for trainees who are moving to new hospitals. Whilst we are notified early of the deadline, finding out who your supervisors are that year, and contacting each of them to ensure they sign the completed rotations can be difficult, especially if you are not working in the same hospital.  Some of my colleagues have given me feedback of issues with approval of registrations for the year, and difficulty with amending this. One example was a colleague who recently informed me that one of her rotations was accidentally recorded as a Core B and not Core A rotation. As she did not have enough Core A rotations recorded she was told that she needed to do another 6 months of training. However, the rotation marked as Core B was an Acute medicine term and was counted as a Core A rotation for other trainees at her site of training. She was informed that she could not amend this, as it was past the deadline. I was wondering whether there may be an easier way to handle issues with the portal and registration of rotations when there was an error on the system.	The due dates for registrations are reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with the College training and education committees. Due dates for registrations are determined in consideration of many factors including the trainee's ability to obtain rotation information for their registration, the need for an approval decision to be provided as soon as possible to the trainee and the capacity of the Fellows who determine progression decisions as part of their role on the Training Committees. We appreciate that this is a tight timeframe and requires the cooperation of the training site and supervisors to assist Trainees in completing their registrations by the due date. We appreciate ongoing feedback to ensure that we are best meeting the member's needs and will take these into consideration when we review the due dates.  We encourage Trainees who have any concerns regarding individual approval or certification decisions to contact the College
REFER to page 54 of the Annual Report 2017 in which the outgoing President made the following statement:  "The impact of climate change on the health of Australians and New Zealanders, our Pacific neighbours and globally are to urgent to be ignored"  I agree with this statement. The implications of this statement are that RACP cannot ignore the pressing need for climate change mitigation. While RACP has divested from fossil fuels, major supper funds, which a high proportion of RACP members would be members of, have not divested.	The College divested its interests in any fossil fuel activities some time ago and has an Ethical Investments policy regarding the management of its funds. It is not the role of the College to advocate to Trustees of Superannuation Funds as to where their Members funds are invested. That is a matter that members of the respective funds should raise with the Trustees if they are not happy where their funds are currently being invested.



Climate First S compa super f	ore I ask whether the RACP, as part of advocacy about e Change, would agree to advocating to HESTA and tate Super asking them to divest from all Tier 1 nies as shown on Market Forces website? These two funds are the largest specifically catering to health sionals.	
there h Board newsp Article papers nationa	ne past 2 years of the current RACP Board's tenure has been an unprecedented number of confidential papers leaked to the media most notably to the aper "the Australian Doctor" (see Australian Doctor 30 November 2018). That news outlet has used those to undermine the public standing of the RACP both ally and internationally. Those leaked documents include a not limited to:	
1.	The report of the Election Working Group 2016 chaired by the Honorary Treasurer, Dr Charles Steadman	
2.	Confidential emails from Prof Nick Talley concerning claims of bullying and most recently	
3.	The results of the 2018 election results before they were released by the President.	
4.	What assurances can the President and President Elect give members that confidential correspondence that they may have with the Board will not be leaked to the media for the purposes of political or other undisclosed gain?	The President and President-Elect are Fellows of integrity who do not act in this manner, as their past behaviours and actions have indicated. Both office holders have always acted discretely and appropriately in dealing with such matters.
5.	Have each of the incumbent Board Directors been asked to swear an affidavit stating they did not assist in leaking confidential papers over the past 2 years in breach of their fiduciary duties?	No, but it has been discussed at Board level and all Directors indicated they did not leak any material. The College is unable to prove how this may have occurred despite investigating the matter.
6.	What assurances can the President give that incoming Board members understand their fiduciary duties?	Part of the Induction Day to be held on 31 May 2018
7.	Will the incoming Board Directors be asked to swear an affidavit that they understand those fiduciary duties?	



		No, unless they individually agree to do so. This is a matter for the incoming Board to decide.
1.	How did the results of the RACP election leak to the media before any College members were officially notified?	The questions posed by Professor Talley will be addressed as part of the independent investigation into the recent elections being undertaken by an experienced external
2.	How did a group of candidates sitting for election to the Board obtain access to approximately 21,000 College Fellow and Member email addresses without permission of all those contacted, and use them repeatedly for personal electioneering purposes? Were any Australian or New Zealand privacy laws breached as a result of these private email addresses being in the possession of one political grouping without permission?	forensic organisation, as instigated by the Board.
3.	Why were not all candidates sitting for election given equal access to College Fellows and Members?  Because this was not the case, and one group was clearly advantaged, doesn't this mean the election was unfair and the results in question?	
4.	Is it acceptable professional behavior for any Fellow or Member of the College to make comments in the press during or just prior to an election that may damage the College for what may be reasonably construed to be political gain? Is such behavior a breach of the RACP code of conduct?	
5.	Were any Australian or New Zealand laws broken by the publication of private email addresses of Board members and selected Board candidates, distributed in an email to most College members prior to the release of election results? Was the code of conduct breached or potentially breached? If yes, what actions have been taken or will be taken by the	



College by-laws and the law?

#### 79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Questions asked by Members

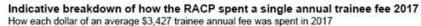
6. How is the College addressing serious complaints some Fellows or Members may have breached College by-laws and Australian or New Zealand law during the campaign?
7. Will College election by-laws be revised to ensure future elections are scrupulously fair and tickets of candidates are disallowed as was the clear intent of the current election by-laws? When will the College advise its members of any proposed changes?
8. Is the new College Board legally constituted in view of the serious concerns hanging over the fairness of the 2018 election and allegations of serious breaches of

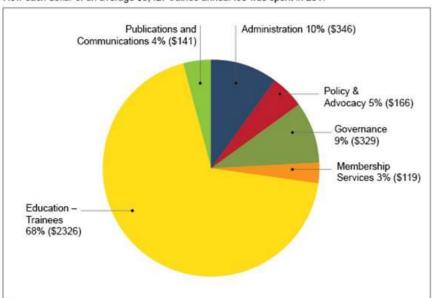


EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

Why do we pay over \$3,000 of fees every year? How is this money spent/justified?

Why do we report to APHRA for CPD points and provide documentation to then when we are current members of the College? Does this not undermine the authority of the College?





The College is not a regulator just a facilitator of the information to the regulator.

Many retired practitioners remain interested in the topics discussed in the educational sessions of Congress. Some retired doctors live in markedly reduced financial circumstances and have no ability to offset educational costs. Has the College ever considered charging only a nominal conference fee for retired members who are able to cover their won costs for travel and accommodation?

This question has been referred to the Congress Organising Committee for its consideration.

Can the College guarantee that there will be no technical problems and errors that may beset the FRACP examination system in the future? What are the measures that have been put into place to prevent this from happening again? Is there a 'back-up' syste

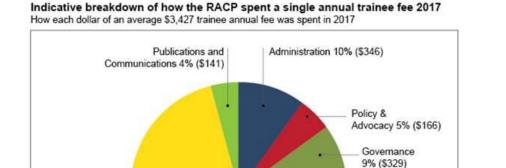
The future of Computer Based Testing in the College is currently the subject of an external review the findings of which will be considered by the Board and the CEC at the appropriate time. Trainees will be kept informed of any decisions taken post the receipt of the review findings.



**EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE** 

Why are the College fees so high?

What is being done to minimize their continuing education?



Membership Services 3% (\$119)

Please clearly explain and reconsider the extraordinary expensive college training fees, exam fees and congress fees.

What is the total cost to the College of the recent RACP Written Exam failure and how will it be paid?

Are there any plans towards standardizing selection criteria/interviews for candidates considering specialties such as cardiology, neurology etc?

Is there a method for the RACP to audit sites to ensure that trainees receive adequate supervision throughout their BPT and Advanced Training years? If there are issues how is this addressed in order to protect the trainee rather than allowing them to remain in a toxic working environment?

How are the supervisors in themselves supervised? With respect to their ability to educate, be a mentor and help guide

Please see above response

Education – . Trainees 68% (\$2326)

It is too early at this point to quantify the cost to the College.

As part of the Education Renewal Program, the College is developing a revised accreditation system. As part of the new system, the College will implement an annual Physician Training Survey for trainees and supervisors to allow for systematic and confidential feedback on the quality of training, clinical experience and supervision. The College is committed to ensuring the delivery of quality physician training. The accreditation process will ensure that any deficiencies/issues on compliance that impact the training environment are investigated and escalated to the relevant College committee for action/recommendation. An outcome of the investigation may be an assessment review.

If a trainee is concerned at any time about the quality of their training and supervision they should contact the College Accreditation Unit via <a href="mailto:accreditation@racp.edu.au">accreditation@racp.edu.au</a>.

All Supervisors are required to participate in induction training



EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

trainees under their care?	
How is the current SAC members and chairman selected?	Members of the SAC (now referred to as ATCs or Advance Training Committees) are selected via an EOI process. Chairs for the SAC and then elected from membership. The exceptions may be where the member is a representative of the specialty society or other medical specialty college, who will appoint their representative to the ATC/JCT as per the Terms of Reference.
Should we have elections every 3 years in each specialty?	This is a matter for each specialty to determine.

#### **Attendance Details**

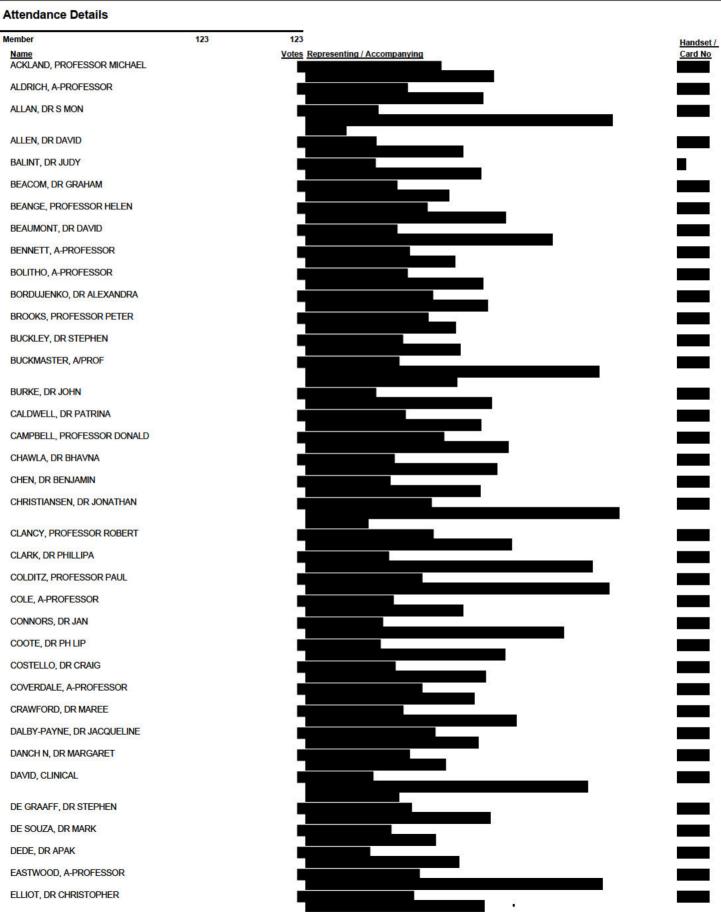
14 May 2018 Date Time 13:34

Meeting: Royal Australasian College of Physicians, RACQ 2018 AGM

Date Of Meeting: 14-May-2018

**Attendance Summary** 

Capacity	Attendees	Votes
Member	123	123
3rd Party Proxy	12	83
TOTAL	135	206



#### **Attendance Details**



EMDER, DR PHILL P

FANCOURT, DR NICHOLAS
FAWCETT, DR RODNEY
FERSON, PROFESSOR MARK
FIELD, DR CATHERINE
GABBETT, A-PROFESSOR
GNANAHARAN, DR CHELLIAH
GUNASEKERA, DR HASANTHA

HANNAN, DR KATRINA
HARLEY, A-PROFESSOR
HARREX, DR WARREN
HEYDON, DR JOHN
HODSON, DR ELISABETH
HOLLO, DR CLAIRE

ISAACS, PROFESSOR DAV D

KERRIDGE, PROFESSOR IAN
K LHAM, A-PROFESSOR
LAKING, DR GEORGE

LANCASTER, DR PAUL LAU, DR PURDY

LEVY, DR LAWSON

LIM, DR KENNETH

LODGE, DR ROBERT

LONG, DR GRAHAM

MAGOCHE, DR NYASHA

MARSHALL, DR KUSHANI

MARTIN, PROFESSOR JENNIFER

MCALLUM, DR CAROL
MCCAY, DR HAMISH
MIACH, DR PETER

MOREY, DR SUE

MURDOCK, DR NICKI

MOHAMUDALLY, DR ANTHOULLA MOLONEY, A-PROFESSOR

MORRIS, PROFESSOR PETER

LAVERCOMBE, A-PROFESSOR

LAWRENCE, DR RICHARD

LAZZARI, DR PETER

LEAPER, DR DEREK

LECAMWASAM, DR DEEPAL

LEEDER, PROFESSOR STEPHEN

JACK, DR CAROLYN JUREK, DR MARY KATRAK, DR PESI KELSALL, DR HELEN





#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO 2018 AGM

At the most fundamental level we exist to educate and train the next generation of specialists to deliver quality care.

I'll begin by summarising the many Education related goals the College has achieved over the last year.

#### **EDUCATE**

By far the most significant has been the finalisation of our two new Basic Training curricula.

This is the material which will guide the learning of all future trainees.

It represents years of work by both Fellows and staff, with input from international experts.

To accompany this, we also released 24 new eLearning resources, for both trainees and for Fellows to undertake CPD.

We also refreshed our popular online College Lecture Series, and this year relaunched it as a free resource for all members.

As well as focusing on learning materials, we are looking more closely at those we select to be physicians, and the people who train them.

Over the past 12 months the College has approved the principle of selection into basic training, and the tools we'll use to do so.

In addition, we have finalised a framework to increase support for our supervisors, who guide trainee learning.

It strengthens supervisors' practical skills, improves their ability to teach and aid workplace learning in healthcare settings, and enhances their assessment of trainees.

We have also evaluated a new system for scoring our Clinical exam, which has been positively received by those examiners who have trialed it.

It will deploy in 2019, and clarifies for trainees what is expected of them when they undertake this important exam.

In summary, we continue to strengthen, modernise and assure the quality of our education program.

We are on track to meet both the conditions and recommendations for our accreditation by regulators as the preferred educator of physicians in Australia and New Zealand.

We believe our remit to support physician education should extend further than just Australia and New Zealand.

During 2017 we finalised our International Strategy, which focuses on the South-West Pacific – bounded by Timor Leste, Nauru and the Cook Islands.

We developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences.

It allows our Fellows to increase the training capacity and development of physician education in the region.

Earlier this year, a small College delegation signed that agreement, in person, in Fiji to reflect the importance of this document.

It's a landmark for our College – allowing our Fellows to actively support physician education in the Pacific Islands.

Although it happened outside the reporting period – I'd like to update you on the cancellation of the Basic Training Divisional Written Examination.

As you will be aware, Ferrier Hodgson will investigate the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the cancellation of our Computer Based Test in February.

The investigation will consider a root cause analysis to establish why this event occurred, and improvements to avoid similar events in future.

The release of the report will be a matter for the incoming Board to determine.

#### **ADVOCATE**

We don't just Educate physicians.

We also advocate on issues that affect us, our patients and our communities.

During 2017 our members were once again front and centre in many critical healthcare discussions in Australia and New Zealand.

We continued to draw attention to the effects of juvenile detention in Australia – particularly focusing on inconsistencies in the age of criminal responsibility.

We consulted widely and contributed our viewpoint to the public debate on medically assisted dying.

Our Make it the Norm campaign for equitable standards in health and housing in New Zealand was extremely successful and received national coverage.

We continued to voice our concern about the health effects on refugees of immigration detention on Manus Island.

The College spoke out in favour of Australian marriage equality based on health-related evidence from same sex couples and their children.

Our Fellows were sought for expert print, radio and TV commentary on:

- Access to specialist care for Indigenous Australians
- Medically supervised injecting centres
- Advertising alcohol to children during sport
- Drug testing trials for welfare recipients
- Harms of codeine based painkillers

We saw significant increases in followers across all our social media platforms.

At times our media share of voice on issues last year was second only to the AMA.

One of my personal goals during my Presidency has been to focus the College on educating greater numbers of indigenous specialist trainees in both Australia and New Zealand.

I also want to see greater education in culturally safe healthcare for practicing physicians.

We finalised our Indigenous Strategic Framework last year and it will guide us in that work.

We also finalised our Medical Specialists Access Framework in late 2017 – which focuses on improving the access of Indigenous Australians to specialist healthcare.

Both documents are pictured on the right – and you can pick up copies here at Congress.

As I mentioned earlier – we also advocate on behalf of physicians.

During 2017 – we implemented a Board-led Strategy to highlight the importance of our own health and wellbeing.

We can't give the best healthcare to our patients – if we are not healthy ourselves.

This is a multi-year plan to change the way our entire sector thinks about Doctor's health.

We created new eLearning resources, videos, webpages and updated our own position statements.

To drive this change in thinking for coming generations of physicians – we incorporated physician health and wellbeing into the Basic Training Curriculum.

We co-operated with other Colleges, healthcare services, jurisdictions and allied services to start discussions about this issue.

And we established our own reference group on the topic, which met for the first time earlier this year.

As a College - we collaborate to lead innovation in the delivery of specialist medicine in a constantly changing world.

No less than 38 research careers have been assisted by our Foundation over the last five years.

But the Foundation has also struggled with sustainability.

Last year we refocused the Foundation with a three-year goal to develop a philanthropy strategy, and reinvigorate the bequest program.

From the \$2.5 million the Foundation had available in 2017 for research, scholarships, fellowships and grants, it made 55 awards.

We also received more than half a million dollars' worth of donations.

#### **INNOVATE**

During 2017 we continued to explore ways to make membership of the RACP more valuable for our members.

For some years, many Fellows have wanted an emblem of their Fellowship they could use in a personal professional capacity.

Last year we launched nine different variants of our Fellowship Mark... the Adult Medicine version is shown on the right.

To date, they've been downloaded by Fellows more than 3,000 times.

One of the biggest changes during a physician's career is the transition from trainee to new Fellow.

Last year we held the first six new Fellows forums to help navigate that important career stage.

We also continued to improve the way our member contact centre functioned and approved a streamlined feedback process to allow us to respond more quickly to member questions.

In addition, new features were added to MyRACP, such as acceptance to Fellowship and the ability to apply and pay for exams online.

RACP Congress – at which this AGM is taking place – is our flagship event.

Last year we made major changes to the format – moving to a shared interests model – covering topics that would be of general interest to all.

I'm pleased to report – that change was successful – we had 1108 delegates attend last year.

We had five times the number of trainees attend than at any time previously.

And people clearly liked the new format – giving it a 4.15 out of 5 satisfaction score.

As always – we are continually looking at how we can run your College more efficiently and cost effectively.

Last year we consolidated Sydney staff to two buildings - to save costs and increase the effectiveness of teamwork.

If you are on a College Committee, you will have used our video-conference system, which has now been upgraded and improved.

Our financial reporting software has been upgraded, resulting in faster reporting, and we've moved our data storage to the Cloud instead of on-site.

All of this has resulted in a million dollars of savings of members money.

Finally, we spent the last year preparing for the historic changes that will come into effect in the next few minutes with the passing of formal resolutions at this meeting.

We will move from a Board of 19 Directors, to ten.

In addition to the President and President-elect, we welcome five new Directors onto the Board – and the three remaining positions will be Board appointed.

# RACP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14 May 2018International Convention Centre Sydney



### **INTRODUCTION**



### ITEMS OF BUSINESS

#### ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Report of the Board
- 2. Annual Financial Report
- Declaration of the Results of the Election of Members to the Board



### ITEM 1

#### REPORT OF THE BOARD



# **EDUCATE**

### **Education Renewal**

- Two new Basic Training curricula finalised
- 24 new learning resources released
- College Lecture series refreshed for re-launch
- Principle of selection into Basic Training approved
- New Education Leadership and Supervision Framework finalised
- New Clinical Exam scoring system evaluated for 2019
- 15 of 31 AMC conditions satisfied and closed
- 18 of 25 AMC recommendations satisfied and closed





### **International Strategy**

- Area of focus is South-West Pacific
  - Area bounded by Timor-Leste,
     Nauru & Cook Islands
- Landmark MOU developed with Fiji National University
- Increases training capacity and development of physician education in region







### **Basic Training Exam Cancellation**

- Ferrier Hodgson commissioned to investigate
- Root cause analysis to understand points of failure
- Release of report to be determined by incoming Board







# **ADVOCATE**

### Advocacy

- Members at forefront of health debates
  - Juvenile detention in Australia
  - Medical Assistance in dying
  - Health Equity in New Zealand
  - Access to health services for refugees on Manus
  - Marriage equality in Australia
  - Access to specialist care for Indigenous Australians
  - Medically supervised injecting centres
  - Advertising alcohol to children during sport
  - Drug testing trials
  - Harms of codeine based painkillers











### **Indigenous Health**

- Indigenous Strategic Framework
  - To increase numbers of Indigenous Australian, Maori and Pasifika physicians
  - Promote culturally safe healthcare
- Medical Specialists Access Framework
  - To improve access of Indigenous Australians to specialist healthcare





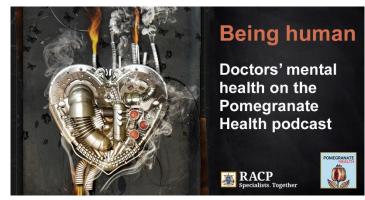




### Physician health and wellbeing

- Board led strategy multi year, cross sector plan
- Health and Wellbeing eLearning module
- Incorporated into Basic Training Curriculum
- Engagement with other healthcare organisations
- Reference Group established







# INNOVATE

### **RACP Foundation**

- 38 research careers started over 5 years
- Refocused
  - Philanthropy Strategy
  - Bequest program
- \$2.5 million available for research scholarships, fellowships and grants
- 55 Award recipients
- \$558,492 in donations







## Increasing value for members

 3,000 Fellowship Marks downloaded



 Contact centre and MyRACP improvements







## **RACP Congress**

- New shared interest model successful
- 1108 delegates record attendance
- Five times more trainees than past years
- 4.15 out of 5 satisfaction score







## **Business improvements**

- Sydney staff consolidated to two buildings
- Video-conferencing system upgraded
- Financial management software upgraded
- Data storage moved to Cloud
- \$1 million in quantified savings







## Governance changes

- 19 Directors reduced to 10
- Skills based
- Five new Directors
- Three remaining positions
   Board appointed





### ITEM 2

#### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



### ITEM 3

DECLARATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD



## **In-Coming Board Members**

A/Professor Mark Lane	College President
Professor John Wilson	College President-Elect
Dr Jeff Brown	President, New Zealand
Dr Jacqueline Small	Member Director
Professor Paul Komesaroff	Member Director
Professor Niki Ellis	Member Director
Dr Alice Grey	Trainee Director



# **Retiring Board Members**

Dr Catherine Yelland	Mr Peter Martin
A/Professor Nick Buckmaster	A/Professor Grant Phelps
Professor Paul Colditz	Dr Helen Rhodes
A/Professor Andrew Cole	A/Professor Charles Steadman
Jonathan Christiansen	Ms Susan Tiffin
Dr Sarah Dalton	Dr Susannah Ward
Professor Lynne Madden	Dr Tina Marinelli
Professor Peter Connaughton	



### **CLOSE OF MEETING**





#### **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO 2018 AGM**

I draw your attention to pages 60 through to page 91 of the 2017 RACP Annual Report available on line. I'll take it as read.

For your information the appointed external auditor from a Grant Thornton, James Winter and the College Director of Finance, John McConville are at this meeting.

#### Context:

There has been some recent commentary about the College being Corporatised so I provide you now with a historical perspective. In the history of the College, "Why the Pomegranate", you will see that our illustrious forebears in the Association of Physicians of Australasia, when creating the RACP, decided in 1936 that the College should modelled on the Royal College of Physicians of London and "that a corporate body is needed to administer funds...". This recommendation made on 23 April 1936 lead to the College being created as a Company limited by guarantee with registration as such on 1.4.1938.

Thus, the College has been a corporation since its early days and it still is. This explained in the corporate information on page 76 of the 2017 Annual Report.

There has also been some commentary that the College has in various ways been diminished. In fact, the College has been on a significant growth trajectory such that it now has more trainees and fellows that at any time in its history and I refer you to page 38 of the Annual Report.

As a "not for profit" company, all trading activities and all funds retained by the College, are for the benefit of the members. The College motto of "Educate, Advocate, Innovate" fundamentally defines the purview of College activities and these activities are conducted, from a financial perspective, essentially on a "cost recovery" basis.

This means that we seek, where possible, to fund each College activity on a standalone basis and avoid "cross subsidisation" between activities and sections of the College. The text and "pie charts" in my report on pages 60 to 63 of the Annual Report describe revenue and "indicative spending" of fees paid to the College by members. The principle of cost recovery applies to both Trainees and Fellows. Trainee fees for College oversight, administration and examinations are calculated on the basis of cost recovery and provide for the fundamentals of training that lead to our highly valued and prestigious Fellowships.

So, conceptually, the Corporate structure of the College and the growth paradigm underlying College activities give the context in which the 2017 Statutory accounts of the College should be viewed.

I have not received any questions on notice from the membership and will now give a brief overview of the Financial results of the College in 2017. The detail is in the Annual Report.

#### In summary:

I am pleased to report that the operations and investments of the RACP returned a small positive members surplus in 2017 of \$1.4m. This includes investment income with the surplus derived from member fees being much smaller. Unless the Board determines that

fee increases are necessary to fund new initiatives by the College, this is about exactly where we want to be. Our annual fee increase was based on the increase in CPI and College costs with the Finance Committee and Board acting consistently to limit the increase in College fees.

The RACP is in a secure position to continue delivering the services that members need and want with a massive unquantified and much appreciated ongoing pro bono contribution from a wide range of members. The pro bono contributions of members are not quantified in the Annual Report and I am not aware of any members seeking to have these contributions quantified.

The RACP remains debt free.

In a low yield environment with the cash rate maintained at 1.5%, RACP investment yield has been satisfactory and the Finance and Risk Management Committee continued funding all awards and scholarships recommended by the research committee. I refer you to Professor Paul Colditz's report on page 32 of the Annual Report. Speaking personally, I find the awards, grants and scholarships funded by the College to be one of the highlights of College activities.

Morgan Stanley in Sydney remain as our investment managers.

As I have commented previously, we model and stress test fee structures. A 5% reduction in fees that would give the average member a fee saving of around \$100 per year or \$2 per week would require a restructuring of college services.

#### **Appreciation**

I want to thank all of the committee members for their generous contributions during 2017.

Being a member of the Finance and Risk Management Committee requires considerable commitment and diligence. I would particularly like to thank our community members, Peter Martin and a new community member, Adam Malouf who has an extensive background in banking and finance.

The College executive, particularly the Director of Finance, John McConville, Risk Manager lain Muir, the Company Secretary Michael Smith, Lalesh Chand, Financial Controller and the CEO have provided dedicated expert support to the committee.

I also wish to thank the other committee members in 2017 including Stephen Inns and Jeff Brown from New Zealand and from Australia, Lynne Madden, Grant Phelps, James Ross and Catherine Yelland as President.

I have now completed my term as Honorary Treasurer. It has been my privilege to serve in the role. Someone new will be here next year.

#### **Charles Steadman**

Honorary Treasurer, RACP Chairman of the Finance and Risk Management Committee