

# CPAC Council Communique

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*Meeting 25 March, 2015*

CPAC Council held its first meeting of 2015 on Wednesday 25 March. Twenty Council members participated in a positive and active discussion on the College's current and emerging policy and advocacy activities. A summary of the day and of the decisions made are outlined below.

- Recognising the importance of cross College collaboration on integrated care, two general practitioners Dr Sue Page AM and Dr Evan Ackermann, RACGP representatives, presented their perspectives and experiences of how our health systems too often works against integrated care and their views on how this needs to change. They then joined the Council's discussion on the policy priorities for the new Integrated Care Working Party which will include new models of care, funding systems, electronic health records, continuity of care, multidisciplinary teamwork and improved communication between clinicians.
- The membership of the Integrated Care Working Party was approved, with Dr Alasdair Macdonald as Chair and Dr Nick Buckmaster as Deputy Chair
- CPAC Council strongly supported developing strategies to ensure the consumers' perspective is considered as part of the College's policy and advocacy work. A range of strategies for engaging consumers in College policy and advocacy activities were discussed. To progress this work the P&A Unit was tasked with exploring the most appropriate mechanisms for bringing consumers' perspectives onto CPAC Council and into the work of key working parties including Integrated Care and pain management.
- Pain management was acknowledged as an issue relevant to all physicians and one which is consistently not well managed. Following an initial scoping phase to ensure College efforts build on and complement other work already underway, CPAC Council agreed to expand policy and advocacy activity on pain management. Consideration will be given to developing a decision support tool for opioid prescribing, in partnership with other medical colleges; advocating for the national implementation for the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system; and seeking ways to address pain management within a biopsychosocial approach in education and training.
- CPAC Council discussed developing a position on air quality and whether it could be addressed as part of the soon to be established Climate Change Working Party. It was agreed that air quality was an important issue and should be handled separately to climate change because the work will have different advocacy objectives, and the issues – although related – are distinct. The Climate Change Working Party (to be established mid-2015) will be advised of this decision and will reference air quality, but will not be required to address it directly.
- CPAC Council noted that the Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Committee is in the process of developing an application for recognition of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine as a field of specialty practice. The Committee is also advocating for improved health services for adolescents and young adults. CPAC Council was supportive of advocacy to raise the profile of the health needs of young people, and noted the importance of integration of care for this age group.

- Following a request from the Adult Medicine Division, the CPAC Council decided that the College should have a position on euthanasia and the issue has been referred to the End of Life Working Party for them to consider incorporating it into their workplan.
- A College Working Party will be established to coordinate the College's liaison with the National Disability Insurance Agency, the statutory agency responsible for implementing the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- CPAC Council agreed that evaluating its working parties is an important mechanism so that the College can continue to improve its work processes. It was agreed that when its working parties reach the end of their term, members will be asked to complete a short questionnaire to evaluate the working party's achievements, processes, and the operational and organisational support provided.
- A discussion about the roles of the College's Australian State and Territory Committees acknowledged their important role in contributing to policy and advocacy, particularly by providing regional policy intelligence and connections with local decision-makers.