



Australasian Faculty of
Public Health Medicine



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

AUSTRALASIAN FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE



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1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 Public Health Medicine is the area of specialist medical practice concerned primarily with the health and care of populations.

The Faculty seeks excellence in public health medicine, education and practice to achieve the highest levels of health for the populations of Australia and New Zealand. The Faculty does this through the training and continuing professional development of public health physicians, the promotion of public debate on matters of public health and the encouragement of public health research.

1.2 The Faculty is committed to improving the health of the populations of Australia and New Zealand by:

- a) pursuing health equity for the populations of Australia and New Zealand.
- b) facilitating continuous improvement in the training, assessment and continuing professional development of public health medicine practitioners in Australia and New Zealand.
- c) collaborating with other public health practitioners and clinicians to influence the determinants of health.
- d) collaborating with other public health practitioners and clinicians to further the knowledge of public health.
- e) promoting the study of, research into, and evidence-based policy and practice on all matters related to public health.
- f) being an authoritative source of advice in matters of education and public interest in relation to all aspects of public health, and to advocate in relation to these matters.
- g) working collegially to promote and enhance the wellbeing of the Faculty's Fellows and Trainees.
- h) working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Māori to address their health needs.

1.3 The Faculty recognises the unique position of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's, and Māori in New Zealand's, culture and history. The Faculty is committed to seeking equity in the partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and Māori of New Zealand in ways that recognise their distinctive cultural and legal rights and the different social and administrative contexts within which they live, including in New Zealand the specific guarantees of the Treaty of Waitangi, by way of:



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- a) Encouraging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori leadership in public health
- b) promoting the study of, and advancement of knowledge in, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori health.
- b) promoting and encouraging high levels of cultural competence and ethical standards in relation to public health practice, teaching and research as it relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Māori.
- c) working in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities for the advancement and determination of public health research and best practices.
- d) working in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Māori to achieve public health action that effectively addresses inequalities and improves health outcomes.

1.4 In all these activities and at all times Fellows and Trainees of the Faculty will:

- a) treat all people with dignity and respect; and
- b) maintain ethical and evidence based practices and behaviours, and use transparent and fair processes.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

2.1 The responsibilities and functions of the Council include:

- a) To oversee and promote good governance practices within the Faculty consistent with, and in the spirit of, those practices approved by the Board of the College.
- b) To promote the study of, and advancement of knowledge in, the field of public health medicine.
- c) To promote and encourage high levels of skill and expertise and high ethical standards in the practice of public health medicine.
- d) To promote public health medicine to medical undergraduates and to graduates contemplating entering the field of public health medicine.
- e) To act as an authoritative body for the purpose of consultation in matters of education or public interest in the field of public health medicine.



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- f) To foster collaboration with clinicians, other public health professionals and communities to further advance knowledge in the field of public health medicine and to achieve public health action to address inequalities and improve health outcomes.
- g) To develop and oversee annual business plans in accordance with the College's strategic plan.
- h) To provide oversight and direction to the Faculty's Committees in accordance with College approved policies and procedures.
- i) To determine the requirements for training and continual professional development through the College's educational governance framework, in collaboration with the Faculty's Education Committee assisted by the College's Education Services.
- j) Through the Faculty's Education Committee to implement and contribute to the College's education, training and assessment programs.
- k) To support the Australian State, Territory and New Zealand regional committees of the Faculty in providing local advocacy for public health within their respective regional and national health systems.
- l) To take account of differences between the legal, social and administrative contexts in Australia and New Zealand, including the Treaty of Waitangi, in all decisions affecting New Zealand Fellows and Trainees of the Faculty.
- m) To approve candidates for Fellowship and to submit recommendations for Fellowship of the Faculty to the College Board.
- n) To approve candidates for other awards to the President of the College for approval by the Board.
- o) To assist the College and the Australian Medical Council and the Medical Council of New Zealand in assessment of international medical graduates seeking recognition as public health specialists.
- p) To recommend to the Board any person to be an Honorary Fellow of the College who in the opinion of the Council is of national or international eminence, or has rendered exceptional service to the Faculty or to the science or practice of public health medicine, whether or not that person holds a medical qualification.