



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP warns against complacency about Australian alcohol consumption

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has today warned of complacency about Australian alcohol consumption on the back of figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that show Australians are drinking less alcohol than any time in the past 50 years.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nick Talley says that while this news is very encouraging, there is more to be done to reduce alcohol related harm.

“The College believes it is very important to find the right balance between low risk alcohol consumption and its misuse. The ABS data appears to show that Australians are being more moderate in their approach towards alcohol, but there is still room for improvement,” Professor Talley said.

Professor Talley said that alcohol related harm is still dangerously high.

“If you look at the ABS data, 18.2 per cent of Australians aged 14 and over still drink at levels which put them at risk of long term harm. That’s almost one in five. More than a quarter of Australians aged 14 and older reported being a victim of an alcohol-related incident in 2013. That’s five million Australians,” Professor Talley said.

“It’s important we acknowledge the risk from the dangers of alcohol. Even single episodes of severe intoxication can cause damage to health.”

Professor Talley said more must be done to reduce alcohol consumption.

Ends

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,950 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,530 Trainee members across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 34 medical specialties including paediatrics & child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology and public health medicine, occupational & environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.
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