



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

## Media Release

### Federal budget sidesteps alcohol tax reform again

6 May 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has welcomed increases in the excise on tobacco but said the Budget sidestepped much needed reforms to alcohol pricing.

Despite the RACP and other health organisations being a vocal proponent for alcohol tax reform, the Federal Government did not heed calls to replace the wine equalisation tax with a volumetric rate.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley said: “The RACP is frustrated that the Federal Government has again ignored calls for a more appropriate tax on wine.

“The impact alcohol is having on both individuals and society is hugely significant and it needs to be addressed. Alcohol consumption is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions with huge costs to our community.”

Professor Talley said the College applauded the continuing increases to tobacco excise and reduced duty-free allowance.

“It is pleasing that the excise on tobacco has been increased as it will help in driving down smoking rates. It is an important change as smoking remains the largest single cause of death and disease in Australia and we must continue the move to a tobacco-free society.”

**Ends**

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**About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP):** The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric 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.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.