



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP supports release of first Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has supported the release of the Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation (Atlas) – a publication which identifies variation in health care.

RACP has collaborated extensively with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care in delivering the publication.

Six clinical areas are included in the Atlas, including prescribing, diagnostic, medical and surgical interventions.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said variations in health care are relatively common, however understanding why they occur is important.

“Understanding variation is critical to improving the quality and value of health care services,” Professor Talley said.

“Identification is the first step in the process and the Atlas has revealed different degrees of variation across all six clinical areas. More research and investigation will now take place to determine why this is happening.

“The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is to be congratulated on producing such a powerful resource. We’ll be promoting the Atlas to College members to support its release.”

RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division President-Elect Dr Sarah Dalton collaborated on the project on behalf of the College and believes the release of the Atlas is an important milestone for the health and medical sector.

“It has been a rewarding experience to work with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care on the first release of the Atlas,” Dr Dalton said.

“I am also pleased that the Atlas complements the work of RACP’s flagship policy, EVOLVE.”

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. 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. www.racp.edu.au