

Media Release

RACP identifies health priorities for incoming government

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has released its [Australian Federal Election Statement](#), which identifies health policy priorities for the incoming government.

The RACP Statement covers a broad range of health topics including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, end-of-life care, preventive health (including alcohol, obesity and tobacco), refugee and asylum seeker health, integrated care and the health impacts of climate change.

Following the release of its updated [Alcohol Policy](#) earlier this year, the RACP has made a number of recommendations relating to the harms of alcohol, including:

- Legislating to ensure that children and young people are protected from alcohol advertising and promotion.
- Introducing a volumetric taxation system for alcohol products.
- Increasing funding for alcohol treatment services.
- A commitment to work closely with state, territory, local governments and expert stakeholders to deliver the long-promised *National Alcohol Strategy*.

As highlighted in its recently released End-of-Life Care [Position Statement](#), the RACP is recommending the incoming government:

- Work closely with State and Territory governments to develop standardised, sustainable models of end-of-life care.
- Adequately fund flexible palliative care services and additional training places for palliative care physicians.
- Harmonise legislation on Advance Care Plans across jurisdictions.
- Undertake a national public awareness campaign developed in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Election Statement also calls for a commitment to sustained and secure funding for the Specialist Training Program (STP), including confirmation of plans for STP training positions for 2017 and beyond.

RACP President Dr Catherine Yelland said the RACP is committed to working with all political parties to ensure the provision of high quality healthcare accessible to all Australians.

“While the Australian health system is recognised for delivering high quality healthcare, it is under increasing pressure,” explained Dr Yelland.

“Reforms are needed that enable the provision of care to be integrated, patient-centred, efficient and more accessible to the most vulnerable in our community.

“The RACP has made a number of recommendations across a broad range of priority areas and we urge the incoming government to adopt each of these.”

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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.