

## Media Release

### RACP pre-budget Submission 2017-2018

Friday January 13 2017

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has released its pre-budget submission for 2017-2018, [Healthy people, Healthy Lives](#), which outlines key health funding recommendations for the Australian Government.

The submission addresses various topics including child and adolescent health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, preventive health, climate change and health, as well as health system reform.

The submission makes a range of recommendations including:

- increased investment in early childhood development to give all Australians the best, healthiest start in life
- concerted efforts to close the gap in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians
- strong preventive health measures which will reduce preventable illness and disease, focusing in particular on reducing the harms of alcohol and increasing the availability of alcohol treatment services to those who need them
- funding for a national campaign to encourage conversations about end-of-life care preferences, and the development of flexible models of care that enable people to receive palliative care at home.

RACP President Dr Catherine Yelland said that the Australian Government must commit sustained funding to ensure the Australian healthcare system is able to support the health needs of all Australians.

“We need a health system that gives all Australians the best chance of living long and healthy lives; offering high quality, patient-centred care underpinned by clinical best practice.

“We need a system that is innovative, with a focus on integrated care and preventive health so that unnecessary health costs and avoidable illnesses are minimised.

“RACP members provide specialist medical care to Australians at every stage of their lives and their recommendations to the Government on healthcare policy are summarised in this submission. We hope the Australian Government is listening closely,” said Dr Yelland.

**Ends**

**Media contact:** Aidan Simmons ph: +61 2 9256 9650 [aidan.simmons@racp.edu.au](mailto:aidan.simmons@racp.edu.au)

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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.