



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Paediatrics & Child Health Division

**Paediatric Policy & Advocacy Committee
Mid-year Communiqué
August 2015**

Welcome to the PCHD Policy & Advocacy (PPAC) mid-year communique which is made available to all Fellows, Trainees and College staff. This communiqué keeps you informed and updated of matters pertaining to policy and advocacy activity for the first half of 2015.

Dear Fellows and trainees,

Policy and Advocacy Activities

Improving the health of children and young people is a priority for Paediatrics & Child Health Division of the RACP. The PPAC continues to contribute to this goal by planning and overseeing policy/position statement development, maintaining advocacy on key issues in line with PPAC/PCHD annual plans and by supporting or participating in the PCHD's responses to emerging and important child health issues.

Launch of position statements

This year two position statements, led by the PPAC, were launched by the RACP:

1. [Protecting Children is Everybody's Business: Paediatricians Responding to the Challenge of Child Abuse](#) position statement was launched by the Lead Fellow of the working group, Dr Terry Donald at the 14th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (ACCAN 2015) in Auckland in April 2015.

Related items:

- Families Australia shared the document with its membership.
- Earlier in the year support was given to the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development to its intent of information-sharing as part of the Government work plan on vulnerable children (Children's Action Plan).

Thank you to Dr Terry Donald for leading the development of the statement, as well as Mr Alex Lynch, Senior Policy Officer for guiding it to finalisation. Thank you also to the working group:

- Professor Dawn Elder
- Dr Anagha Jayakar
- Dr Geraldine Goh
- Dr Jan Connors
- Dr J. Anne S. Smith
- Dr Louise Martin
- Dr Susan Marks
- Dr Lisa Dive

2. [Newborn Screening in Australia position statement](#) was launched by Dr Nicki Murdock, PCHD President and Dr Jim McGill at the RACP Congress in May 2015.

Thank you to Dr Janice Fletcher for leading the development of the statement, as well as Mr Alex Lynch, Senior Policy Officer for guiding it to finalisation. Thank you also to the working group:

- Dr Janice Fletcher (Chair)
- Ms Susanne Hendricks
- Dr Barry Lewis
- A/Prof Helen Liley
- Dr Dianne Webster
- A/Prof Esko Wiltshire
- Dr Melanie Wong

Related items:

- Dr Jim McGill is representing the RACP in the development of the Australian Governments national policy framework for newborn bloodspot screening in Australia.
- Contribution to 'A National Policy Framework For Newborn Bloodspot Screening In Australia – Consultation Survey', Commonwealth Government's Newborn Bloodspot Screening Working Group, June 2015

Further PPAC activity:

The PPAC is currently working on position statements:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Young People
- The Role of Paediatricians in providing for the Mental Health of Children and Young People
- Inequities in Child and Young People's health

In liaison with the RACP Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Committee and the RACP Maori Health Committee, the PPAC intends to develop a position statement on Indigenous Child & Young People's Health – pending internal approval.

Other policy & advocacy activity:

- An open letter to Emeritus Prof Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, extending support to Prof Triggs and the Commission following the Australian government's rejections of the report on children in detention, *The Forgotten Children*. A letter to the Attorney-General encouraging the Australian Government to take up the recommendations of the report.
- Input to an RACP submission to the National Framework for Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families.
- Input to an RACP submission to the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity & Intersex Rights Snapshot Report consultation.
- Input to the RACP submission on the 5th periodic report to the United Nations on New Zealand's progress under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- Advocacy addressing sugar-sweetened beverages in New Zealand that will ultimately contribute a wider plan around obesity.
- Meeting with the National Lead of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to discuss paediatric concerns.
- Contribution to a range of topics including a consumer parent and carer resource, preventative activities, National Disability Insurance Agency quality and safeguarding, the third action plan for protecting children, use of photo and video imaging in child sexual abuse cases, female genital cosmetic surgery, newborn bloodspot.

- Division representation on behalf of the College at external meetings including: ASCIA primary immunodeficiency resource development; ARACY Annual General Meeting; Newborn bloodspot screening policy framework – consultation; National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children: Third Action Plan Consultations; National Community Child Health Council; Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH) Australasian Clinical Indicator Report.
- Determined new Division representation on behalf of the College on: the FASD Diagnostic Instrument Trial and Implementation project Steering Group; and the Australia Pacific Paediatric Association (APPA) Advisory Board.
- For more information please see [Policy & Media outputs 2015](#)

Committee Membership

- [Current membership](#) of the PPAC comprises elected Fellows, a trainee, consumer representative (AWCH), a New Zealand paediatrician, a Fellow with particular expertise in advocacy and representatives of the following PCHD speciality areas: Chapter of Community Child Health (CCCH), Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (AYAM), neonatal, general paediatrics (APS).
- Terms of Committee members conclude in line with the College election cycle in May 2015. The call for Expression of Interest is scheduled for early 2016.

Meeting Dates

The PPAC meeting dates for 2015 are:

- Friday, 27 February (face-to-face)
- Wednesday, 29 April (teleconference)
- Friday, 10 July (face-to-face)
- Wednesday, 28 October (teleconference)

Contact

If you would like to contact the PPAC Chair please email paed@racp.edu.au

Dr Jacqueline Small
Chair
PCHD Policy & Advocacy Committee