

CPAC Council Communique

Meeting 7-8 September 2016

CPAC Council held its second meeting of 2016 on 7 and 8 September. This was the first meeting held with the new Council membership.

Seventeen Council members attended and participated in a positive and active discussion on a framework for advocacy, future healthcare trends, consumer input and an Indigenous strategy. In light of these discussions, members set the strategic direction for the College's policy and advocacy activities for 2017.

On Wednesday 7 September CPAC Council reviewed the year's work to date and explored the following topics:

- CPAC participated in an 'Advocacy Masterclass' which provided an overview to members on the key elements of considered and effective advocacy. This was then followed by a session discussing a new draft Advocacy Framework that will assist the College in its policy and advocacy activities. Members were very supportive of the proposed approach and provided valuable feedback on how to further develop the Framework.
- The P&A Unit provided CPAC with a summary of the 2016 policy and advocacy activities to date, highlighting key achievements and progress on major projects such as:
 - EVOLVE – exceeded the College target to engage 66% of Specialty Societies in the initiative
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee (ATSIHC) - progressing well with ATSIHC's priority of developing a framework to improve access to specialist care, contributed to a range of policy submissions and position statements, and the development of further educational resources on Indigenous health and cultural competency
 - Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health - the College's advocacy on the need for reforms to the Border Force Act's secrecy provisions were successful and the College continued to speak out on issues including offshore detention, release of children into community-detention, care of high-risk patients, and the leaked Nauru reports
 - Harms of Alcohol – successful launch of the College's Alcohol Policy which was picked up and referenced in ALP & Greens policies leading up to the Federal election
 - End of Life care - successful launch of the College's position statement, which has placed the College in an excellent position to continue its advocacy on this issue
 - Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Death – work has commenced to develop a College position on these complex issues, which will include extensive consultation with the membership and the community.
 - Climate change and health – substantial new policy development, following on from the College's highly successful advocacy campaign which was recognised in the Lancet and included a Global Consensus Statement that was endorsed by 69 health and medical organisations from around the world and presented to Dr Margaret

Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, at the Climate and Health Summit in Paris.

- National Disability Insurance Scheme – a position statement and practical Guides for physicians and paediatricians are under development, to support members and their patients through the rollout of this ground-breaking program.
 - Medicinal cannabis – the College has voiced its concerns strongly to governments in a number of meetings and submissions, and several Fellows have been appointed to Victoria’s Independent Medical Advisory Committee
 - Integrated Care – successfully lobbied for a seat on the government’s Health Care Homes Implementation Advisory Group, and undertook extensive consultation of the College’s Integrated Care Discussion Paper
 - E-cigarettes – strongly adopted the debate & decide approach to policy development and were able to respond to a range of external consultations whilst still developing the College position
 - AFOEM – released the Ethical Guidelines for Occupational and Environmental Physicians
 - AFRM – released the Guiding Principles for Telehealth Consultations in Rehabilitation Medicine
 - PCHD – finalising The Role of Paediatricians in the Provision of Mental Health Services to Children and Young People Position Statement
- CPAC discussed how to integrate patient centred care and consumer engagement into the College’s policy and advocacy work. Members discussed the best model to ensure that consumers were supported and that their engagement was a positive experience for both them and the College. CPAC agreed that one model may not suit the variety of consumers the College will be engaging with and that there needs to be a transparent and collaborative approach. CPAC also felt that consumer members need to be able to contribute comfortably, with diversity amongst those involved to ensure they represent the communities we are trying to engage with.

On Thursday 8 September CPAC Council looked at future health care trends and agreed on their 2017 priorities:

- Members noted the volume and breadth of policy submissions made during the CPAC Advisory Committee reporting period (March to August 2016), with a total of 92 matters considered, varying from emerging issues to established College policy priorities.
- Dr George Laking, Chair of the Māori Health Committee presented on a paper given to the July 2016 Board. The key recommendation in that document was that the Board commit to the development of a new Indigenous Strategic Framework that includes agreed priorities, short and long term outcomes, and specific strategies.

CPAC discussed their role in regard to this matter and what areas need to be prioritised, with discussion focused on the main strategies and goals of the Framework;

- Contributing to addressing Indigenous health equity differences;

- Achieving population parity for the number of Indigenous trainees in both Australia and New Zealand;
 - Educating and equipping the physician workforce to improve cultural competence and Indigenous health ; and
 - Fostering a culturally competent and safe College
- CPAC had an interesting discussion on future trends, developments, and drivers of change in and around health care that are likely to affect the College’s policy and advocacy work in the next decade. Members were asked how these might shape expectations on the College from patients, government, Fellows and trainees, and other stakeholders.

CPAC’s discussion can be summarised into five themes:

- Increasingly open access to knowledge and information;
- Trust and the human connection with medicine;
- The interface between disability and healthcare;
- Distribution between the public and private sectors in healthcare; and
- Interaction with Patients

Of these themes CPAC identified two areas of particular interest and relevance; trust and knowledge accessibility. Trust links to the College’s work in Consumer Engagement, Patient Centred Care and ethics. Knowledge accessibility is linked with health literacy and empowering communities and patients to better engage with health and the decisions that affect them.

- CPAC approved amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee’s (ATSIHC) Terms of Reference to enable an additional member to be a community representative to allow for both a male and female representative to ensure appropriate gender balance. The other two community member positions would remain unchanged as allocated to representatives of NACCHO and AIDA.