



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Terms of Reference

Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE
OF A SUB-GROUP OF THE COLLEGE'S POLICY REFERENCE GROUP TO
BE KNOWN AS THE MEDICINAL CANNABIS REFERENCE GROUP**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The debate on medicinal cannabis in the last 12 months has led to proposed legislative changes to allow its use. To enable the RACP to make timely and well informed responses on this topic, the College Policy & Advocacy Committee (CPAC) is establishing a Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group (the Reference Group). The Reference Group will increase the College's capacity to be appropriately represented on medicinal cannabis committees, advisory groups and at meetings; support the development of rapid responses when required; and provide a broader range and depth of physician expert input to policy priorities that have medicinal cannabis aspects within their scope.

2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. The role and responsibilities of the Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group are to:

2.1.1. Provide input to College submissions on matters related to medicinal cannabis;

2.1.2. Be a source of nominees to represent the College at medicinal cannabis related meetings, workshops and advisory groups;

2.1.3. Contribute to College work on other policy priorities where medicinal cannabis is a related matter.

2.2. The Reference Group will operate in accordance with:

2.2.1. These Terms of Reference

2.2.2. The College's policies and procedures, including the *Working Together* and *Code of Conduct* policies.

3. EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

In accordance with the decisions of the College Policy & Advocacy Committee (CPAC) at its October 2015 meeting, the Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group does not have any delegated authority, and cannot:

3.1. Approve output

3.2. Convene without prior approval

3.3. Speak on behalf of the College without prior approval

3.4. Meet face to face without prior approval

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. The membership of the Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group will not be limited and Fellows and trainees with expertise and interest in the area of medicinal cannabis will be invited to join.

- 4.2. There will be no selection process undertaken, and therefore any members wishing to join will be allowed to
- 4.3. The Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group will be supported by College staff from the Policy & Advocacy Unit.

5. DURATION

- 5.1 The Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group will be established for a period of 12 months from the date of its initial promotion to members.
- 5.2 After this period, CPAC will advise whether to disestablish or continue the group and, if continued, for what period of time.
- 5.3 This process will continue until such time as CPAC determine the Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group should cease.

6. REPORTING

- 6.1. The Medicinal Cannabis Reference Group will report to CPAC.

7. DEFINITIONS

“College”	means The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (ACN 000 039 047), an incorporated body limited by guarantee.
“Fellow”	means a Fellow of the College.
“Trainee”	means a person who is undertaking a program of Basic Training or Advanced Training approved by the College in order to gain Fellowship of a Division, Chapter or Faculty of the College.
“College Member”	means a Fellow or a Trainee