



**Paediatrics & Child Health Division
Policy & Advocacy Committee**

**Mid-year Communiqué
August 2016**

Welcome to the Paediatrics & Child Health Division Policy & Advocacy (PPAC) mid-year communiqué 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 2016.

Dear Fellows and trainees,

Policy and Advocacy Activities

Improving the health of children and young people is a priority for the Paediatrics & Child Health Division (PCHD) of the RACP. To achieve this, the PPAC continues to update published position statements as well as develop new position statements.

Current activity is:

- The role of Paediatricians in Mental Health Care of Children and Young People, led by Dr Chris Pearson
- Inequities in Child Health, led by Dr Sue Woolfenden and A/Prof Sharon Goldfeld

Upcoming activity is:

- Indigenous Child Health, led by Dr Danny De Lore
- Early Childhood, led by Dr Pat Tuohy

Other policy & advocacy activity:

- Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications - Harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the Internet, March 2016
- Submission to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Consultation Paper – Proposal P1028: Infant formula (standards to improve regulation of infant formula products with the P1028), 27 May 2016
- Letter to Mayor John Bowler, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, The use of ‘caning’ on children as a form of punishment, 5 April 2016
- Letter to The Hon Michael Mischin LLB (Hons) BJuris (Hons) MLC Attorney General; Minister for Commerce, The use of ‘caning’ on children as a form of punishment, 5 April 2016
- Input to the RACP submission to the State of Queensland (Queensland Health) Consultation for the draft ‘Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021’, June 2016
- Input to the RACP submission to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists consultation for the draft ‘Clinical Guidance on the Use of Antidepressant Medications in Children and Adolescents’, June/July



- [Media release on the leaked reports from Nauru](#), with RACP calling for the transfer of asylum seekers into the community while claims are assessed, August 2016
- [‘Ending the abuse of children on Nauru: We must be better than this’](#) Opinion piece by Dr Sarah Dalton, PCHD President, August 2016
- For more information please see [Policy & Media outputs](#)

Paediatricians are also making valuable contributions to whole of College work, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Death, alcohol policy, refugee and asylum seeker health, and medicinal cannabis.

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, and general paediatrics.
- Two new members commenced their first term post May-2016, following the College election cycle:
 - NZ representative - appointed Fellow: Dr Alison Vogel
 - Trainee representative: Dr Julie Chen
- Thank you to those members whose terms ended in May 2016, Dr Stuart Dalziel and Dr Victoria Ward, for their valuable contribution to the PPAC.

Meeting Dates

The PPAC have met:

- Friday, 4 March (face-to-face)
- Wednesday, 13 April (teleconference)
- Wednesday, 20 July (teleconference)

The PPAC are scheduled to meet:

- Friday, 21 October (face-to-face)

Contact

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

Dr Jacqueline Small
Chair
PCHD Policy & Advocacy Committee