



**PAEDIATRICS & CHILD HEALTH DIVISION
POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

End of Year Communiqué – December 2017

The following communiqué highlights the key activities of the Paediatrics & Child Health Division Policy & Advocacy Committee (PPAC) for the second half of 2017.

The PPAC has had a very busy year developing position statements and supporting the PCHD's response to evolving child health issues. I would like to thank the Committee for their continued efforts and expertise, which have resulted in several accomplishments, as outlined below.

Position Statements

The following position statements are nearing conclusion:

- **Inequities in Child Health:** Scheduled for completion by the end of the year and launch in 2018, with a PCHD session covering this at RACP Congress 2018.
- **Early Childhood:** Feedback will shortly be sought as part of the external consultation phase. The statement is scheduled to launch in 2018.
- **Indigenous Child Health:** Scheduled for launch in 2018, with a PCHD session covering this at RACP Congress 2018.

In addition, the following policies are all at various stages of assessment by the PPAC, and work on these statements will continue into 2018:

- Genital Examination of Young Girls
- Breastfeeding
- Health of Children in "Out-Of-Home" Care
- Circumcision of Infant Males

The PPAC have contributed to numerous PCHD policy and advocacy outcomes in the last six months, which include:

Submissions and letters

- RACP submission to the NSW Law Commission's Review of the Guardianship Act 1987 Question Paper 5 *Medical and Dental Treatment and Restrictive Practices*, May 2017
- Letter to Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ending corporal punishment of children in Australia, June 2017
- Letter to the Ethics Centre providing feedback on the Proposed Amended Terms of Reference for the independent Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula Tribunal, June 2017
- RACP submission to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Costs, Productivity Commission Position Paper, July 2017
- RACP submission to the Inquiry into perinatal services in Victoria, August 2017



- RACP submission to the Inquiry into the provision of services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Early Childhood Early Intervention approach, August 2017
- RACP submission to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand consultation on infant formula for special dietary requirements, September 2017
- RACP submission to the diagnostic process for children, adolescents, and adults referred for assessment of autism spectrum disorder in Australia: National guideline, November 2017. The RACP has representation on the Autism Spectrum Disorder Guideline Steering Committee.

Further details on recent PCHD submissions, position statements and media can be found on the [website](#).

PPAC Membership

- The PPAC has recently appointed Professor Rachel Skinner, as the Adolescent and Young Adult Committee representative.
- Membership of the PPAC can be viewed on the [website](#).
- My third and final term as PPAC Chair concludes in May 2018, and several other PPAC committee positions will also become available. The call for Expressions of Interest is scheduled for early 2018.

Your feedback and queries are always welcomed. Please do not hesitate to get in touch via paed@racp.edu.au

Dr Jacqueline Small

Chair, Paediatrics & Child Health Division Policy & Advocacy Committee
December 2017