



15 May 2026

RACP Board Members:

Dr Sharmila Chandran
Dr Nicholas Buckmaster
Associate Professor Janak de Zoysa

Via Email

Dear Dr Chandran and Members of the RACP Board,

We write on behalf of the RACP Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM), representing over 770 Fellows, and over 400 Chapter and Divisional Advanced Trainees and Clinical Foundation in Palliative Medicine Trainees.

We are deeply concerned by the recent turmoil within the College at Board level. The public conflict, inconsistent messaging, and ongoing governance instability have caused serious distress among Fellows and trainees and have significantly damaged confidence in the RACP, perhaps irreparably.

Our trainees are anxious about whether their training will be accredited, whether examinations will occur, and whether they will be able to progress in their chosen careers. Fellows who have long voluntarily given their time as supervisors, examiners, and assessors are questioning whether they can continue to support a College whose leadership is fractured, distracted, self-serving, and incapable of maintaining professional discipline.

This is not a minor internal dispute. It is causing widespread reputational harm to the RACP and eroding the goodwill of its' members on which the core functions of the RACP depends. Many members are now questioning the value of continued membership. This risk is particularly acute for Chapter-trained Fellows, many of whom are also members of other Colleges such as RACGP or ACCRM and who already have alternative CPD homes and professional structures available to them. Fellows are already leaving the RACP as a direct consequence of the very public infighting over the last year. The dysfunction you have caused threatens training, supervision, assessment, member engagement, and the RACP's credibility as a national professional body. At a time of major workforce pressure, the RACP can least afford to alienate the Fellows and trainees who sustain its training programs.

Dr Chandran and Board Members, you should know that you have destroyed the goodwill and faith in our peak professional body of an entire generation of clinicians. We hope for the sake of our profession that the damage you have wrought is not permanent. This damaged trust will not be restored through further defensive



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statements, factional communications, or public point-scoring – it will require restraint, accountability, transparency, and competent governance.

We call on Dr Chandran and the Board to immediately cease inflammatory and self-serving communications, put aside personal and political agendas, and discharge their fiduciary and professional duties as Board members of the RACP and focus on rebuilding what has been deeply damaged.

The RACP requires calm, credible, and unified leadership. Dr Chandran and the Board must now demonstrate that they are capable of providing it.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gauri Gogna
President, Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine, RACP

Dr Sophia Lam
Chair, Training Program Committee in Palliative Medicine, RACP

cc RACP Division, Faculty and Chapter Presidents:

- *President, Adult Medicine Division*
- *President, Paediatrics & Child Health Division*
- *President, Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*
- *President, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine*
- *President, Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine*
- *President, Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine*
- *President, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine*

Replies to: PallMed@racp.edu.au