

What has happened?

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has advised the College that Dr Sharmila Chandran has been suspended as a responsible person, until 20 September 2026. During this period, she also ceases being a Director, Member of the Board and President-Elect.

Who made this decision?

This decision was made by the ACNC under its regulatory powers.

The College did not make this decision and is complying with the regulator's directions.

Why did the ACNC take this action?

The ACNC's reasoning is outlined in its Suspension of Responsible person notification.

Does this mean Dr Chandran has been permanently removed?

No.

The ACNC action is a suspension until 20 September 2026.

Any future arrangements beyond that period will depend on regulatory and governance processes.

Is Dr Chandran still President-Elect?

During the suspension period, Dr Chandran ceases being President-Elect.

Who is now leading the Board?

The ACNC has appointed Adj. Prof. Susan Pascoe AM as a responsible person of the College and Independent Interim President and Chair of the Board during this period.

How can Adj. Prof. Pascoe be appointed interim President when she is not a Fellow of the College, nor medically qualified?

Adj. Prof. Pascoe was appointed President by the ACNC through its powers under the ACNC Act, which over-ride the College Constitution requirement for the President to be a Fellow. She has been given the role to ensure that she has the necessary administrative authorities the position carries – should she need to exercise them.

She will not be representing the College in public on clinical or advocacy matters; the Board will delegate that role to a Fellow.

Who is Susan Pascoe AM?

Adj. Prof. Pascoe is an experienced governance leader with senior experience across the education, charity, regulatory and public sectors.

The Board and management are working constructively with her to support stability and good governance.

When Dr Chandran's suspension ends, will she become President?

Provided no further action has been taken, yes Dr Chandran will become President at that point.

Who does the ACNC currently recognise as Directors?

According to the governance update issued to members, the ACNC currently recognises:

- Adj Prof. Susan Pascoe AM who has been independently appointed by the ACNC.
- Dr Nicholas Buckmaster
- Associate Professor Janak De Zoysa
- Elizabeth Jameson AM who has also been independently appointed by the ACNC

How were the remaining Directors appointed to the Board?

The remaining Directors have taken office after being successful in the 2026 College elections. They are:

- Dr Julian Kelly - President-Elect
- Dr Nixon Chan - Trainee Director
- Adj. Assoc. Prof. Anthony Sasse - Member Director
- Prof Tissa Wijeratne - Member Director

Do the governance issues affect College operations?

No.

The College continues to operate normally and remains focused on:

- physician training
- examinations
- accreditation
- education
- advocacy
- member services

Is the College still under investigation?

Yes.

The ACNC investigation remains ongoing and the College is also conducting investigations.

What about SafeWork NSW?

All SafeWork NSW improvement and prohibition notices remain in force, and SafeWork NSW continues to monitor the College.

The College continues to cooperate with regulatory requirements.

What should members take from this update?

The College acknowledges the seriousness of the governance issues and is cooperating fully with regulatory processes. The priority remains stability, continuity, member services, and the long-term governance of the organisation.”

Is the College financially stable?

Yes. The College continues to operate and deliver its core functions. Governance and regulatory matters are being actively managed.

How much has all of this cost the College?

The expenses have been considerable. Once the College has fully collated costs, to the extent it is able to, it will update members.

Did the College ask the ACNC to intervene?

The College has previously engaged with regulators regarding governance concerns and regulatory compliance obligations. As these matters involve ongoing regulatory processes, the College cannot comment further on specific regulatory interactions.

Why is the ACNC involved at all?

The ACNC is the national Australian regulator for charities and not-for-profits.

The RACP is a registered charity and therefore subject to ACNC governance standards and regulatory oversight.

Does the ACNC’s intervention prove any wrongdoing?

The ACNC has exercised regulatory powers as part of an ongoing process. It would not be appropriate for the College or staff to speculate on findings or outcomes while regulatory processes continue.

Is the governance crisis over?

The College recognises the past period has been difficult and disruptive. The focus now is on stabilisation, cooperation with regulators, and continuing delivery of the College’s core responsibilities.

Where should I go for official information?

Members and the public should rely on official College communications, including:

- direct emails from the College
- formal member communiqués
- the College website

As regulatory and legal matters remain active, information may evolve over time.