

UPDATE

RACP COVID-19 RESPONSE



As at 27 May 2020

Advocacy

- Telehealth – The voluntary member survey, developed by the College's Policy & Advocacy team, to capture current member experiences and insights on the use of the new telehealth items closed on 25 May 2020. The College received 950 responses. Survey results are currently being collated and analysed, with initial indications showing an overwhelming support for some form of telehealth to be continued beyond the current COVID-19 period. Survey respondents reported that telehealth was being used to provide increased access to specialist care, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The COVID-19 Expert Clinical Reference Group (ECRG) will consider the survey results in more detail at its next meeting and in particular how the experiences of members and patients gained during this period can feed into ongoing advocacy. The ECRG noted that.

Advisory Groups – Whole of College

- Efforts are currently underway to find two Aotearoa New Zealand members to join the COVID-19 Expert Clinical Reference Group, including one who identifies as Māori.

Advisory Groups – Education Learning and Assessment (ELA)

- Options for how and when the Divisional Clinical Exam will be run in 2021 for the 2020 cohort were presented to the Exams Advisory Group on 15 May 2020. High-level foundational statements and the approach have been agreed on. The Paediatrics & Child Health Division undertook additional internal consultation with key committee Chairs on 19 May 2020, with results distributed to the Exams Advisory Group. On Friday, 29 May 2020, the College will further discuss with Health Departments to determine what is feasible. Additional work is underway to determine the most suitable dates to run the exam.
- A detailed approach for managing provisional progression into Advanced Training has been developed with the Sub-Group and presented to the Training and Accreditation Advisory Group on 8 May 2020. There is high-level support and consensus from the Group for the proposed approach. The College Education Committee has approved these out-of-session and communications to trainees, supervisors/DPEs and committees are being finalised (expected week of 25 May 2020). This will be presented to the Australian and New Zealand Health Departments on Friday, 29 May 2020.
- Guidance for trainees and their DPEs/supervisors on whether to apply for provisional Advanced Training developed and will form part of the new provisional Advanced Training webpage
- At the Training and Accreditation Advisory Group on 8 May 2020 there was a discussion regarding online learning resources and what should be priority for development at this time. Group feedback was to focus on the development of new online resources to help Basic Trainees sit the Divisional Written and Clinical Exams, including curation of what existing international resources may be of use. Work is now being accelerated to get these resources online. A brief is also being developed to go out to all Advanced Training Committees to help build a list of online resources suitable for Advanced Trainees.

Professional Practice

Trainees

- College ELA managers have attended numerous regional Trainee Committee meetings to provide updates and answer questions.

RACP Resources

- [College COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce – evidence-based clinical guidelines](#)