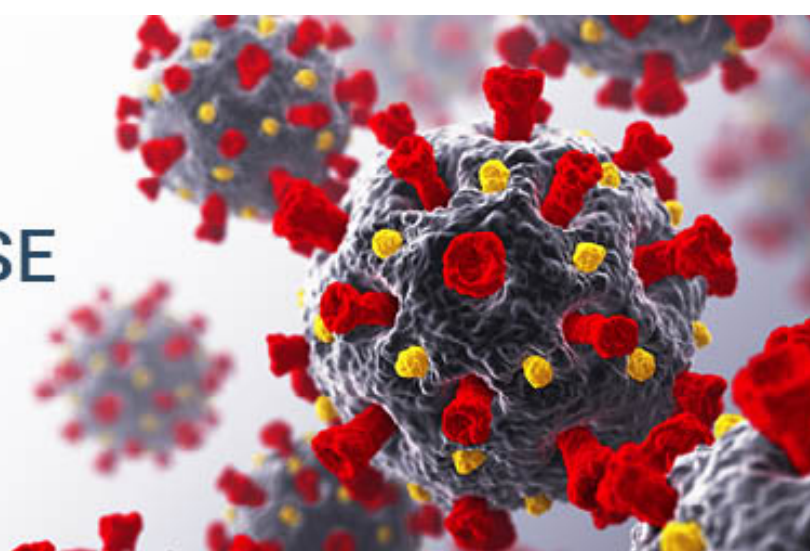


UPDATE

RACP COVID-19 RESPONSE



As at 3 June 2020

Advocacy

- Telehealth – The voluntary member survey, developed by the College's Policy & Advocacy (P&A) team, to capture current member experiences and insights on the use of the new telehealth items resulted in 950 responses. This is a very high response rate from the College membership given only a one-week response period was provided. Survey findings are currently being analysed, with P&A to provide further feedback in the coming weeks. The findings will be used to inform ongoing advocacy with government. A survey on the use of telehealth in Aotearoa New Zealand is also being planned.
- The College is a member of the Australian Government Department of Health's primary care stakeholder group, chaired by Professor Michael Kidd and attended by a small number of peak bodies including the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. This enables us to raise issues at a senior level on behalf of our members in private and community-based practice.
- The College has advocated on the safe use of point-of-care testing for use in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, with all Australian states and territories now agreeing to its rollout.

Advisory Groups – Education Learning and Assessment (ELA)

- Options for how and when the Divisional Clinical Exam (DCE) 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 29 May 2020, the College discussed this further with Health Departments and there was support for virtual rather than face-to-face exam approaches where feasible. Work is underway to determine the most suitable dates to run the exam. Out-of-session meetings have been scheduled with Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand clinical exam committees, the Adult Medicine Division Assessment Committee, the Paediatric Division Assessment Committee and the College Assessment Committee in the first few weeks of June to consult further over DCE options.
- A template has been received from all Australian Health Departments regarding notification of changes to their 2020 term rotations and 2021 recruitment. The Health Departments have requested any questions from the College about when hospital sites will be ready to undertake clinical exams be directed to their Chief Medical Officers for feedback.
- A detailed approach for provisional Advanced Training (pAT) was published on 28 May 2020. As part of a new pAT webpage, it includes guidance for trainees and their DPEs/supervisors on whether to apply for pAT.
- 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 has been sent out to all Advanced Training Committees to help build a list of online resources suitable for Advanced Trainees.
- A COVID-19 ELA Program Plan for the remainder of 2020 is under development, outlining the approach, tasks, schedule, inter-dependencies and risks based on all the exams, training requirements and accreditation decisions made to date.

Professional Practice

Trainees

- Additional communications were sent to trainees when major changes were published on the College website, including detailed pAT guidance published on 28 May 2020.
- FAQs addressing trainee concerns have been published on the College website. Additional FAQs have been added to support pAT and the research project.

Meetings

- RACP Congress – Following a decision to cancel RACP Congress 2020 and postpone Convocation ceremonies, a cut-down Congress 2020 program will be delivered online over Q3 and Q4 2020 on a cost neutral basis. A Congress 2021 Lead Fellow will be appointed as BAU.
- Member meetings – All face-to-face member meetings and events across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand have been cancelled and replaced where possible with Zoom meetings.
- COVID-19 member information sessions – A series of webinars to guide members in the use of telehealth, tele-prescribing and to take members through COVID-19 stimulus packages have been presented on a regional basis with

overwhelming interest from members. Many of these are recorded and published on the College website.

- Planning for 2020 events such as RACP Congress 2021 and IMiA 2021 is addressing risk mitigation of continuing uncertainty around convening larger scale events with regards to both the potential for restrictions on gatherings changing at short notice in response to a COVID-19 resurgence and financial viability of presenting socially distanced events.

Members

- The AFOEM Council has shared resources regarding the correct use of PPE that were produced in Aotearoa New Zealand. Opportunities continue to be explored with the Australian Government regarding presentation of a PPE RACP member information session.

RACP Facilities and staff

- The New Zealand Government will be further reviewing Alert Level 2 requirements on Monday, 8 June 2020 and will consider moving to Alert Level 1 by no later than Monday, 22 June 2020. No physical distancing is required at Alert Level 1.
- An all RACP staff Zoom meeting was held on 2 June 2020 to address remote work issues and return-to-office logistics.

RACP Resources

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