

COLLEGE POLICY & ADVOCACY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE: MEETING OF 28 OCTOBER 2020

This was my first meeting as Chair of the College Policy & Advocacy Council (P&A Council) which met on Wednesday 28 October 2020 via zoom. Attendance was very good with nearly all 29 College body member representatives present on the day. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Key items from the meeting were:

Dr Lesley Russell, Adjunct Associate Professor at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and a non-resident Fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, was invited to present on healthcare reform post-COVID. Following the presentation there was discussion on a range of issues: benefits in the rise of telehealth since COVID, the need for system reform, particularly in aged care, with an importance placed on integrated care across the system; as well as looking at the potential longer term changes in health system. The College's ongoing support of members on the impacts of COVID in their practice and to their safety and wellbeing was acknowledged. There was ongoing support of the existing College advocacy on COVID.

Patrick Tobin, the Executive General Manager P&A, presented on options for measuring the outcome of P&A work. Members discussed potential indicators to measure P&A activity and outcomes for possible development, including that indicators will be dependent on the policy topic and the type of measure. Members provided valuable feedback to the P&A Team who will work on developing a draft set of indicators to present to CPAC Executive Committee (CPAC EC) out of cycle.

Associate Professor Jaquelyne Hughes FRACP, a Principal Research Fellow at Menzies School of Health Research, was invited to speak on the Queensland Office of Health Ombudsman report into the 2017 death of a 6 year old Torres Strait Islander boy caused by systemic failures, and the RACP's response to this. Members discussed the proposed course of action and how the College's Indigenous Strategic Framework and the Medical Specialist Access Framework can contribute to systems level change. The members moved to reiterate its support for the Indigenous Strategic Framework, calling out systemic racism in the health sector, as well as reiterating College support of the Statement of Principles of Equity.

The P&A Council reviewed progress against their 2020 work plan and the year's P&A activities. For further details of 2020 P&A activity please read the [CPAC P&A Report](#). COVID has had an impact on work, however, significant activity has continued despite this. Following a member survey of P&A priorities prior to the meeting, the P&A Council used the results to workshop the priorities for potential consideration in the CPAC 2021 work plan. Top priorities from the survey included Indigenous health, climate change and health, reducing low value care, obesity and integrated care/specialist care in the community. The P&A Team would take all feedback from the meeting and develop a draft 2021 work plan for P&A Council review and approval out of session.

The last item of the meeting was a short report by external governance expert Mr James Beck. Mr Beck has been progressively attending Board Committee meetings throughout the year and he attended the P&A Council meeting in his capacity as an Observer. Mr Beck thought the meeting was well structured and well chaired with broad and informed contribution. Mr Beck also provided feedback on how to improve in areas, which will be addressed through future meetings.

CPAC 2021 dates are:

- Wednesday 28 April
- Wednesday 3 November
- Calendar invites have been sent to P&A Council members

CPAC EC 2021 monthly zoom sessions scheduled:

- Typically, last Thursday of each month
- 1 hour
- Calendar invites have been sent to CPAC EC members

DR JACQUELINE SMALL

**Chair, College Policy & Advocacy Council
President-Elect, RACP**