

# COLLEGE POLICY & ADVOCACY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE: MEETING OF 22 May 2019

The Policy and Advocacy Council met on Wednesday this week. Thank you to those who attended and for those who could not be there I have provided a short summary of the main discussions and outcomes.

We had two very interesting and engaging presentations. The first was from Martin Bowles, national CEO of Calvary Health Care, Australia and former Secretary of the Federal Health Department. Martin recommended that we take a long-term view on developing relationships with decision-makers. He pointed to the Chief Medical Officer, Brendan Murphy, as a key stakeholder for us, and suggested the future health workforce should be an important priority for the College. We were fortunate to have Brian Freestone, Director Development, in the room at the time, and he gave Council a briefing on work underway by the College on workforce policy. The Council considered that this warranted greater attention and resolved to recommend this to the Board.

Dr Chris Bourke, Strategic Programs Director, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, presented on concepts of racism, particularly institutional racism and how organisations can measure this and work to improve their cultural safety. Our new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee Chair, Luke Burchill responded to this address by briefly outlining his vision for the implementation of the College's Indigenous Strategic Framework. The Board has agreed that increasing the numbers of Indigenous trainees is a priority. Luke favours a strength-based approach to this, beginning with a better understanding of the experience of the 11 Indigenous trainees we have at the moment, and influencing the College's programs to lift this number.

Robyn Burley, Director Education, Learning and Assessment also gave a presentation on the progress of the College's activities in addressing member wellbeing. CPAC was pleased to see initiatives being developed which aim to influence training and working environments, being added to the individual support services offered. As this work progresses Robyn will seek input from the P&A Council members for support.

Patrick Tobin, Director P&A, also gave a brief update on the MBS Review of the Specialist and Consultant Physician Consultation items. He advised the Council of the extensive cross-College consultation process going forward in the development of the College's draft submission and encouraged members to engage with and respond to the draft submission which will be circulated next week.

Members reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Evolve Strategy 2019-2021. This will see a greater focus on the implementation and evaluation of low value care policies. Consultation on the draft strategy will be undertaken.

The P&A Council endorsed the final version of the Delegation Model and supported the proposed recommendations for implementation.

The revisions to the CPAC By-laws were approved to progress to the Board's June meeting. These changes included a name change for the CPAC Advisory Committee to the Executive Committee reflecting its decision-making role and facilitating the new Delegation Model.

The P&A Council noted with appreciation the successes in policy and advocacy over the past six months achieved by College members with the support of the P&A team including on:

- silicosis
- child health
- the election recommendations
- the launch of the Early Childhood Position Statement and the Employment, Poverty and Health documents, both at the Congress
- the model of integrated care
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Position Statement.

These and the many other achievements were published in a P&A Report for members. Additional hard copies are available for meetings and events, to further promote your achievements and hard work. An [electronic copy is available online](#). Please contact the P&A Unit for hard copies of the P&A Report on [CPAC@racp.edu.au](mailto:CPAC@racp.edu.au).

The Council also considered two proposals for future work during other business. These will be considered in more detail during the next CPAC meeting in November which will consider the 2020 workplan.

The next P&A Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 November.

**Professor Niki Ellis**

Chair, College Policy and Advocacy Council