



## **NZP&CHDC – Year in Review**

2013 has been a busy and productive year for the New Zealand Paediatrics and Child Health Division Committee (NZP&CHDC).

The NZP&CHDC continues to be committed to children and young people and acts on this commitment through a range of policy and advocacy activities and engagement with external agencies.

A highlight of the year was speaking before a parliamentary Select Committee on the Vulnerable Children Bill – whereby our paediatricians were able to engage directly with the legislative process and contribute to improved health outcomes for New Zealand's children.

Throughout 2013 we have been involved and encouraged by the Government's commitment to improving child health outcomes, evident in actions such as a [select committee inquiry](#) into child health outcomes and preventing child abuse, and the Ministry of Social Development's Children's Action Plan.

In light of ongoing public debate, media interest, and local government referendums, fluoridation has also been a pertinent issue for the NZP&CHDC this year. Action in this area culminated in the development of a [fluoridation factsheet](#) as a reference document for College members. The fluoridation debate is likely to endure in 2014.

The NZP&CHDC continues to engage with other RACP committees and external agencies to advance paediatric and child health matters. Throughout 2013 we have held meetings with the National Health Committee, The Office of the Children's Commissioner, and the Minister of Social Development; whilst we continue to maintain and value our strong connections with the Paediatric Society of New Zealand.

We have RACP paediatric representation on various national projects, including the National Health Board's First Specialist Assessment initiative and The Compass Youth Health Project.

Additional NZP&CHDC activities have included engaging with the Royal New Zealand College of General Practice on improving paediatric training pathways, supporting the government's food in schools announcement, and advancing the recognition of adolescent and youth health as a vocational scope of practice.

On behalf of the NZP&CHDC we look forward to working with various College bodies to continue to improve health outcomes for children in 2014.

**Dr Adrian Trenholme**  
**Chair, New Zealand Paediatric and Child Health Division Committee**