

STATEMENT BY SHARMILA CHANDRAN



Personal statement by Dr Sharmila Chandran (President-elect)

VOTE NO at the EGM

As your duly elected President-Elect of the RACP, I must state very clearly that I have performed all my duties as a director and office-holder properly and in accordance with the law.

I have always stood for **Transparency, Fairness, and the Voice of Members.**

I have engaged in the processes of the Board in a proper and respectful manner, and expressed views, as I am obliged to, about the operations, processes and constitution of the College.

Unfortunately, on 22 August 2025, the Board voted no confidence in me. However:

- **NO** written allegations were or have been made against me
- **NO** papers were provided to me as board director in advance
- **NO** verbal explanation of any substance was provided at the Board meeting
- **NO** right of reply

Two communiqués have since been issued by the Board highly critical of me, but I have not received further supporting material from the Board.

I completely reject the adverse assertions made in the 25 August communiqué. I have **NOT** had a proper right of reply.

Escalating Concerns Not Properly Dealt With by the College

For a long time, I have raised concerns of bullying and harassment in the College. These issues went through numerous internal processes, yet adequate corrective action has **NOT** been taken by the College.

I felt that the College had failed to protect me properly from bullying behaviour, and as a result I have sought protection and safety through the lawful processes available under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) with an application for an **anti-bullying order** in the Fair Work Commission. A hearing will be held in **October 2025**, and an external, independent decision will be made.

My Record of Service

When I stood for election in 2024, it was with a strong record: Chair of the Fellowship and Wellbeing Committees, Victorian Coordinator of the College Lecture Series, AMD Executive member, Congress Lead, college examiner, and chair of panel for College Medals. I have led reviews of training, fellowship, and member benefits. I pioneered the Leadership Course, advanced transparency in exams, and promoted diversity among examiners.

I ran for President with one vision: **a Member-Centred College**.

The EGM and Constitutional Changes

The Board is now pressing constitutional changes alongside the EGM at huge cost. I have seen **NO genuine consultation, NO clear plan**, and **NO evidence** members want this. Member surveys in 2021 showed **NO support** for such reforms.

This is **NOT** the time. This is **NOT** the way.

The Choice Before You

You must now decide:

- Is an EGM, at great member expense, in the College's best interests? **NO**.
- Should scarce funds be used on proceedings against a Board member pressing for accountability? **NO**.
- Should transparency, fairness, and the member voice be put at risk? **NO**.

I was democratically elected to be your next President and Chair. I will **NOT** resign, **NOT** yield to pressure, **NOT** surrender, **NOT** compromise on integrity, and **NOT** accept any erosion of democracy.

My Commitments For the Future

I will advocate for:

1. Recognition and remuneration of supervisors and teachers
2. Streamlined training pathways across Australia – **NO** unnecessary barriers.
3. A stronger member voice – **NO** exclusion from decisions.
4. A member-centric College – **NO** more governance-over-members.
5. To transform the College into a world-renowned centre of excellence in postgraduate medical education – **NO** lowering of standards, only lifting them higher.

Call to Action

Say **NO** to the EGM resolutions. Say **NO** to weakening democracy. Say **NO** to unnecessary spend.

I have, I am, and I always will be your advocate — especially for those who feel they have **NO voice**.

Vote **NO**.



DR. SHARMILA RAMESSUR
CHANDRAN 
— MBBS, MRCP, FRACP, PhD, MHA, GAICD —