

COLLEGE POLICY & ADVOCACY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE: MEETING OF 3 NOVEMBER 2021

The College Policy & Advocacy Council (CPAC) met on Wednesday November 2021 via zoom. Attendance was very good with nearly all 29 College body member representatives present on the day. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the discussions and decisions through the afternoon.

Key items from the meeting were:

Draft Policy and Advocacy Strategic Plan

CPAC has expressed a desire for the College's policy and advocacy activities to have a more strategic focus and at their April 2021 meeting agreed to develop a Policy and Advocacy Strategic Plan. The College is in the process of developing a multi-year Strategic Plan which a Policy and Advocacy Strategy would align with.

Nicola Lewis, EGM P&A, presented on the development of the draft P&A Strategic Plan to help set the landscape for further discussion with CPAC members, outlining the purpose and need for the strategy, highlighting the various consultation points with the membership, referencing the findings of the environmental scan conducted by the Menzies Centre for



Health Policy and Economics, as well as showcasing the refined Vision and further advocacy recommendations. Veronica Le Nevez, GM P&A, then provided an update on the results of the all-member Draft Strategic Plan Consultation Survey which has input into the development of the draft Strategic Plan.

Following discussion and feedback from members, CPAC resolved to note the draft Policy and Advocacy Strategic Plan. Further feedback after the meeting indicated that despite support for the general directions of the strategic planning process, there remained important issues to be resolved. This will occur in early 2022.

Policy & Advocacy Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

CPAC agreed at their April 2021 meeting to develop a policy and advocacy evaluation framework to guide the evaluation of the impact and outcomes of the Policy and Advocacy Strategic Plan.

The proposed Monitoring & Evaluation Framework provides a structured approach to track progress, success and learning from the College's policy and advocacy work. The College appointed consultants Influence Global to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Policy and Advocacy. Influence Global presented to CPAC, outlining the method, background and research to develop the Framework, as well as key features and some of the evaluation tools developed.

Following discussion CPAC approved to note the report on the M&E Framework and agreed that the P&A team would progress the Framework for approval by CPAC. The implementation plan would be presented at the next meeting in April 2022.

Proposal of governance changes to CPAC Reference Groups

At its April meeting CPAC approved a review of the current governance arrangements of its Reference Groups that support policy and advocacy, with a view to ensuring that they are fit for purpose, effective and operate efficiently.

The P&A Team undertook a governance review of the Reference Groups with the members and considered future P&A needs in line with the CPAC 2021 work plan, the draft Policy and Advocacy



Strategic Plan under development, and governance requirements as set out in College Policies, By-laws for College bodies and Governance Review.

Rebecca Warne, Manager Policy Liaison and Quality, P&A, presented on the proposed governance changes including strengthening the governance arrangements for all CPAC groups and aligning practices with all existing College By-laws and Policies for College bodies, as well as the establishment of two main types of group under CPAC; P&A

Working Groups with CPAC's workplan driving the activity of these groups, with the individual ToR outlining what they need to deliver, and a P&A Advisory Group, with specific Policy Streams to provide advice through consultation.

CPAC approved the proposed governance changes to the CPAC Reference Groups with a staged implementation.

Climate Change and Health project update

Professor Lynne Madden FAFPHM, was invited to present to CPAC on the College's Climate Change and Health project. The College is leading a group of nine medical colleges to develop a research report on the risks of climate change to Australian healthcare systems and how best to manage these risks. We have engaged the Monash Sustainable Development Institute to carry out this work in partnership with the Climate and Health Alliance. The report comprises three research projects – a rapid literature review, policy and institutional analysis and several case studies which illustrate the breadth and complexity of climate impacts to health systems.

The [report was launched](#) on 30 November by RACP President Professor John Wilson AM FRACP, and Aotearoa New Zealand President Dr George Laking FRACP.



Advocacy will continue following the report launch and will be sustained leading up to the Australian federal election to maintain the focus on health and climate change as a key policy priority for the College.

Physicians Advocacy Online Learning Resource

Rebecca Lewis, Senior Executive Officer, Continuous Learning, Office of Professional Practice, presented to CPAC on the project developing this online resource in collaboration with P&A and under the oversight of a member Working Group. The Commons Change Library has been engaged to draft the content of the e-resource.

There is a strong demand amongst members for advocacy development. In August 2020, a member survey was conducted with RACP members. The survey results indicated that most participants were seeking to expand their understanding and knowledge of advocacy, and the resource seeks to develop this capacity for interested members. While current resources exist, there is no comprehensive and engaging advocacy training resource currently available to members.

The written component of the online resource is under development now. The documentary series has been completed and was launched at Congress this year. It is available on [Medflix](#)

Reports from P&A College bodies: COVID-19 Expert Reference Group, Aotearoa New Zealand Policy and Advocacy Committee, and Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine

Dr Lucy Burr FRACP, Chair of the COVID-19 Expert Reference Group, Dr Stephen Inns FRACP, President-Elect of Aotearoa New Zealand, Chair of the Aotearoa New Zealand Policy and Advocacy Committee and CPAC member, and Professor Adrian Dunlop FACHAM, President-Elect of Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine and CPAC member were invited to present to the CPAC on recent policy and advocacy activity of their College bodies.

Thank you all for presenting on your groups. It is an important way to keep CPAC across the activities of our College bodies and the work aligned to CPAC's agenda.



Dr Jennifer Mann FAFRM, CPAC member, was invited to provide a summary of the meeting, noting it was good to hear from such a broad range of expertise, and that on such important items as the draft P&A Strategy, vital to shape our future ongoing activities, and highlighting the importance of evaluating our advocacy.

Dr Mann stated how timely the climate change report project was given the COP 26 events in Glasgow, and how useful a resource the Online Advocacy Resource was to make members a successful advocate.

It was important to continue to raise the voice of consumers in our work. It was also important to recognise issues between Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, but also to distinguish our differences.

Dr Mann noted that Zoom meetings can be difficult so offered her compliments to the Chair, P&A staff and members attending. It highlighted the benefits of face to face meetings, in enhancing the discussion, and providing opportunities to learn how we think from our differing perspectives.

Next CPAC 2022 date:

- Wednesday 27 April (virtual or F2F TBC)
- Wednesday 2 November (virtual or F2F TBC)

DR JACQUELINE SMALL

Chair, College Policy & Advocacy Council

President-Elect, RACP