



**RACP**  
**Specialists. Together**  
EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

# POLICY & ADVOCACY REPORT

**Report for quarter Q2 April to June 2023**

*This report is valid until end of June 2023*

## **The Royal Australasian College of Physicians**

The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of over 21,000 physicians and almost 10,000 trainee physicians, across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The RACP represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, infectious diseases medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine, and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients and the community.

# Table of Contents

- Highlights ..... 3
- 2022-2026 College Policy and Advocacy (CPAC) Plan Focus Areas ..... 7
  - 1 – First Nations Health and Equity ..... 7
  - 2 – Health Reform ..... 9
  - 3 – Climate and Justice ..... 10
  - 4 – Populations in Focus ..... 11
- Aotearoa New Zealand (AoNZ) ..... 13
  - State and Territory Advocacy ..... 13
  - Submissions and endorsements ..... 15
  - Media and advocacy ..... 15
  - Stakeholder meetings..... 18
  - Government relations ..... 18
  - Your feedback..... 19
  - P&A Team..... 19

*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Custodians and Elders – past, present and emerging – of the lands and waters on which RACP members and staff live, learn and work. The RACP acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.*



## Highlights

### RACP Child Health Parliamentary Roundtable



- On June 21, the 2023 RACP Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable was held at Parliament House, Canberra, and focussed on the health and wellbeing of children and young people involved with care and protection services and youth justice settings. The RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small was thrilled to open the event.

RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small opening the RACP 2023 Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable.

- The event was co-hosted with the Parliamentary Friends of Child and Adolescent Health and Mental Health, co-chaired by three FRACP Members of Parliament (MPs) – Dr Mike Freeland, Dr Monique Ryan and Dr David Gillespie, who all attended.



The RACP 2023 Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable was co-hosted with the Parliamentary Friends of Child Health, co-chaired by Dr Mike Freeland (far left), Dr David Gillespie (second from left) and Dr Monique Ryan (at lectern) - all Fellows of the RACP and Members of Parliament. Also pictured is RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small and members of the expert panel (L-R) – Professor Frank Oberklaid; Professor Sharon Goldfeld; CEO of Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare, Elizabeth Harnett; Professor Ngiare Brown and Professor Jonathan Carapetis.

- Attendees included the National Children’s Commissioner Anne Hollonds; Professor Katie Allen, former MP; CEO Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation VACCHO, Jill Gallagher; CEO Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services Aboriginal Corporation Tracey Brand; and NSW Chief Paediatrician Dr Matthew O’Meara.
- The event was joined by three Ministers, including the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Linda Burney, who addressed the roundtable, and more than ten other MPs, including Asst Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride; Asst Shadow Minister for Mental Health Melissa McIntosh; and Marion Scrymgour, Chair of the Government’s Indigenous Caucus.



The Hon. Linda Burney MP (left), Minister for Indigenous Affairs, addresses the RACP Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable, with by Dr Monique Ryan (right), MP FRACP.

- We were delighted to have over 30 RACP members attend the event, with most travelling from interstate.



The RACP 2023 Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable was well attended by Members of Parliament and RACP members.

- We were also grateful to have members of the working group for the *Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services* position statement join us. It was wonderful to have the launch of this document on this day. The new position statement highlights key recommendations for the Federal Government, State/Territory Governments, the health sector, and care and protection services. Advocacy will continue on these recommendations and those of the related Raise the Age campaign, leveraging the face-to-face relationships established through this highly successful event.



Members of the Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services working group (L-R): Dr Mick Creati, Dr Karen McLean, Dr Paul Hotton, Dr Niroshini Kennedy, Dr Clare Maley, Professor Graham Vimpani and Ms Lizzy Harnett.

## RACP 2023 Healthcare Reform Virtual Town Hall with Minister Butler



RACP President, Dr Jacqueline Small, speaking with The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

- On May 31, more than 100 RACP members joined our virtual Town Hall event with The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, on integrated multidisciplinary care.
- The Minister outlined the Government's health reform priorities and acknowledged the need for system integration that includes specialists, followed by member questions and presentations on effective multidisciplinary care models.
- The discussion with the Minister was followed by presentations from Dr Tony Mylius, Co-Chair of the Healthcare Reform Working Group; Debra Leticia, Consumer Co-Chair of the Healthcare Reform Working Group; and Professor Vasi Naganathan, Immediate Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine. The Town Hall was closed by RACP President-elect and the College Policy and Advocacy Council Chair, Professor Jennifer Martin.



## THE RACP HEALTHCARE REFORM VIRTUAL TOWN HALL 2023

WITH AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MINISTER MARK BUTLER



**THE HON MARK BUTLER MP**  
Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care



**DR JACQUELINE SMALL**  
RACP President and paediatrician



**DR TONY MYLIUS AM**  
Cardiologist and consultant physician



**MS DEBRA LETICA**  
RACP Consumer Advisory Group Consumer Co-Chair



**PROF. VASI NAGANATHAN**  
Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine President



**PROF. JENNIFER MARTIN**  
RACP President-Elect and physician

## Switch off the Junk campaign

- On June 19, we launched the Switch off the Junk campaign, a mini-campaign under the umbrella of the Kids Catch Up campaign, to call on the Australian Government to act on childhood obesity by dealing with rampant junk food advertising and marketing, through tv, radio and online platforms.



- The launch of Switch off the Junk also coincided with the introduction to the Australian Parliament of a Private Member's Bill to regulate junk food advertising to children by Independent MP Dr Sophie Scamps. The RACP has been closely consulted on the development of this Bill, with Professor Nitin Kapur, Paediatrics and Child Health Division President involved.
- The launch of Switch off the Junk resulted in national media coverage by the ABC, positive social media engagement, and 83 RACP members taking action by signing a petition in support.
- Members who want to get involved can sign up here: <https://kidscatchup.org.au/switch-off-the-junk/>

## Healthy Climate Future campaign

- The RACP continues to promote the Healthy Climate Future (HCF) campaign with the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) formally endorsing the campaign in recent months.
- All Specialty Societies have been invited to join to continue to grow the HCF campaign and share the campaign with their members. We are continuing liaison with interested Specialty Societies to progress endorsement over the coming months.

## 2022-2026 College Policy and Advocacy (CPAC) Plan Focus Areas

### 1 – First Nations Health and Equity

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee (ATSIHC)

- On 5 May at the RACP Annual General Meeting, RACP members voted overwhelmingly to include an Indigenous Object in the RACP Constitution. The Indigenous Object recognises the RACP's commitment to Indigenous aspirations and outcomes by:
  - Consulting RACP First Nations committees about health matters impacting Māori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
  - Developing initiatives for improved health outcomes for First Nations peoples, noting that Māori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience significant health disparities compared to non-Indigenous populations – including higher rates of ill health, and shorter life expectancies.
  - Respect and promote the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), by advocating for justice and equity in health care.
  - Respect and promote the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the UNDRIP, by building them into the RACP's Physician training program and Indigenous health and cultural safety training.
- The RACP Board is reviewing a proposal to support the referendum on the constitutional recognition of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.
- The ATSIHC met with the Māori Health Committee in May 2023 in Sydney over two days. Members of both committees visited the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service and met with Aunty LaVerne Bellear. The committee members also visited the Yiribana NSW Gallery at the Art Gallery of NSW as part of National Reconciliation Week.
- ATSIHC has endorsed the appointment of a First Nations member to the RACP Ethics Committee.
- ATSIHC are next due to meet on 15 August.
- ATSIHC, the Māori Health Committee and the RACP Board are due to meet on 23 November for their bi-annual joint meeting.

#### Indigenous Strategic Framework (ISF) Steering Group

- In April, a survey was circulated to the ISF members regarding governance and cultural safety and awareness and the ISF Steering Group will meet in July to discuss the findings of this survey and determine next steps to improve its governance arrangements.
- The ISF Steering Group has also introduced quarterly reporting. RACP teams and departments are being asked to report on their achievements against the ISF strategic priorities each quarter. The quarterly reports will be used to prepare an annual report to the Board about RACP-wide ISF activity and opportunities.

## Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

- An Innovate RAP is being finalised to develop a framework to promote reconciliation across the RACP by ensuring that our actions and priorities reflect and respond to key priorities of First Nations people and contributes to national reconciliation.
- The Innovate RAP is a public commitment published on Reconciliation Australia's website. It is a 2-year plan that will commence after the RAP has been endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.
- Teams across the RACP have been invited to share key innovation priorities and actions for the next two years for inclusion in the RAP.

## Raise the Age

- The RACP continues to support the work of the National Steering Committee for the Raise the Age campaign, which advocates to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility ('MACR') to at least 14 years across all jurisdictions in Australia.
- The ACT Government is raising the MACR to 14 years via a staged process, but the legislative amendments propose exceptions and carve outs for serious offences. On 15 June, the RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small provided evidence to the ACT Government's Inquiry into the Justice (Criminal Age of Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the proposal to raise the MACR in two stages (to 12 years on commencement of the Bill and to 14 years by July 2025).
- The ACT Government has also announced that it will be introducing a new 'Therapeutic Support Model', which will include the establishment of a 'Therapeutic Support Panel' and Therapeutic Support Orders'. The RACP has expressed interest in supporting the ACT Government to develop, implement and monitor these initiatives.
- The Victorian Government has indicated that it will be raising the MACR via a staged approach (to 12 years by 2024 and then to 14 years by 2027), with carve outs and exceptions for serious offences. The RACP has written to the Victorian Government asking them to reconsider their decision and raise the MACR to 14 years, no exceptions and no carve outs.
- The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) have invited stakeholders to make submissions for a project investigating opportunities to reform youth justice and related systems across Australia. The RACP has sent a letter to the National Children's Commissioner, inviting the AHRC to meet with RACP paediatricians and other child health experts to discuss the project and how our RACP members can add valuable insight.
- The next Standing Council of Attorneys General (SCAG) is due to be held in October. The SCAG are set to make an announcement on raising the MACR at this meeting.



## 2 – Health Reform

### Australian Federal Budget

- The RACP advocacy in the lead up to the Australian Federal Budget continued throughout April and May, based on the [pre-Budget submission titled Pathways to Wellbeing: Enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Australians](#). This sought to improve access to specialist care for underserved Australians through systemic reform of care delivery, reinstatement of MBS telephone items for long consultations and better targeted training for specialists in rural and regional areas, among other asks. See related media releases [here](#) and [here](#).
- Policy and Advocacy Executive General Manager Nicola Lewis, attended the May Budget lock-up in Canberra and Policy and Advocacy responded to Budget announcements via a [media release](#) acknowledging the substantive investment in a number of areas that the RACP had advocated for and reminding the Government of the critical role of specialists within the health system.
- In the aftermath of the Budget, Policy and Advocacy developed a series of communications for RACP members and external stakeholders across digital channels and social media to acknowledge the wins in our pre-Budget advocacy. A summary of RACP advocacy achievements is available [here](#).

### Models of care and prevention

- In April and May, the Health Reform team led the development and delivery of the Virtual Town Hall with Minister Butler, RACP President and members of the College. The Town Hall, which focused on integrated and multidisciplinary care and the role of specialists in it, was successfully delivered on 31 May.
- In June, the team developed a [submission](#) to the Australian Government's high-profile Mid-Term Review of the National Health Reform Agreement Addendum (2020-25) and supported the President-Elect's interview with the review panel.
- Policy and Advocacy produced a rapid review of evidence for regulations restricting junk food and sugary drink advertising to children to support the new [Switch Off The Junk campaign](#) and related advocacy.
- The Health Reform team supported the development of an overview document on the physician workforce, data collection systems for workforce planning and proposals for collaborative work with the Department of Health and Aged Care, led by the Office of the Dean. The document will be used as an advocacy tool for MPs and the Australian Government.

### Evolve

- The RACP continues to engage with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality Health Care (ACSQHC) across RACP Evolve, the Choosing Wisely partnership, quality use of medicines, potential alignment with climate change and health and continuing professional development. On 14 April, the RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small, RACP President Elect Prof Jennifer Martin and P&A EGM Nicola Lewis met with the CEO of the ACSQHC. This was

followed by a meeting on 30 May with RACP Policy and Advocacy EGM, Professional Practice EGM Cristiana Palmieri, Policy and Advocacy Manager of Health Reform Dorota Sacha-Krol and Policy and Advocacy Program Implementation Lead Stephanie Wrightman, and ACSQHC Directors and Senior Medical Advisor.

- From 2-5 April, Policy and Advocacy hosted an Evolve exhibition at the Australian Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting to promote the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine RACP Evolve Top-5 recommendations.
- From May to June, Policy and Advocacy developed and promoted Evolve resources (including an [animation and infographic](#)) for the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusions Evolve Top-5 recommendations via internal RACP promotion and social media channels.

### 3 – Climate and Justice

- The Australian Government's National Health and Climate Strategy consultation paper was released in June with feedback due in July. The Climate Change and Health Working Group met to discuss climate health adaptation and focus areas for inclusion in our feedback. We are currently consulting on the RACP submission, which will be made available publicly once submitted.
- The RACP continues to meet regularly with Assistant Secretary Mr. Stephen Bouwhuis from the Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch of the Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, to discuss key asks to be included in the National Health and Climate Strategy.
- In May, the RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small was invited to attend a roundtable at Parliament House on the National Health and Climate Strategy development. Professor Lynne Madden attended as delegate to provide expert input into the Strategy.
- The Multi-College Advisory Committee met in May to discuss aligning key messages to the National Health and Climate Strategy consultation. An additional meeting is being planned to discuss further.
- Dr Arnagretta Hunter, a member of the RACP Climate Change and Health Working Group, presented at a recent meeting of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in London's newly formed Sustainability in Healthcare and Climate Change Advisory Group. Dr Hunter shared the RACP experience and RCP members were very engaged in the presentation and wished to stay connected to the RACP.
- The RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small, along with the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee Professor Ngiare Brown, and the Deputy Chair of the NT Regional Committee Dr Felicity Hodder wrote to the Hon Natasha Fyles MLA, NT Chief Minister, highlighting the health impacts of climate change and the contribution of fossil fuels to these. This was following notification of a letter signed by 39 paediatricians in the NT, expressing concerns about hydraulic fracturing in the Beetaloo Basin.
- Policy and Advocacy have been collaborating with climate change and health stakeholders including the *MJA-Lancet* team, the Climate and Health Alliance, and Doctors for the

Environment Australia (DEA) to develop a paper on health harms to fossil fuels, the National Health and Climate Strategy, and numerous DEA campaigns respectively.

- Policy and Advocacy continues to work with Shared Services and the Environmental Sustainability Task Force to progress priorities in the [RACP's Environmental Sustainability Policy](#) and related actions.
- The RACP Climate Change and Health Working Group provided feedback to the Treasury Measuring What Matters consultation.

## 4 – Populations in Focus

### Paediatrics and Child Health

- The [Health Care of Children in Care and Protection Services position statement](#) is now available on the RACP website. A dissemination/release plan and advocacy plan are in development to support advocacy on the position statement recommendations.
- The Paediatric and Child Health Division (PCHD) President Professor Nitin Kapur has been working with stakeholders in the lead up to Dr Sophie Scamps MP Private Member's Bill to restrict the marketing of junk food to children and young people. The RACP, led by the PCHD, support the Bill as it aligns with our campaign #SwitchOffTheJunk, the mini-campaign sitting under the Kids Catch Up (KCU) banner, launched in June.
- The PCHD President also recently provided evidence at the WA Inquiry into child development services. The Inquiry is focused on the delivery of child development services in both metropolitan and regional Western Australia, including paediatric and allied health services.
- The PCHD Policy and Advocacy Committee (PPAC) are working on a 'refreshed' set of asks for the Kids Catch Up campaign to have a reduced COVID focus, and also incorporate a First Nations-specific ask.
- The Adolescents and Young Adults Medicine are progressing development of a new position statement on Youth Appropriate Health Care and will shortly be establishing a new Youth Advisory Group to assist with the development of this statement.
- Policy and Advocacy continue to work with members of the PCHD to provide submissions to relevant inquiries. In April, the RACP [provided feedback](#) to the Australian Department of Education's [review](#) of the impact of COVID on school students with disability. In May, the RACP provided a [submission](#) to inform the federal governments [Early Years Strategy](#) and a [submission](#) to the Productivity Commission [Inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care](#). In June, a RACP [submission](#) was provided to the Select Committee into the Provision of and Access to Dental Services, as well as a [submission](#) to the Senate Inquiry into barriers patients face when seeking treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Both these submissions focused on access to services for children and young people.

## Disability

- There has been lots of media attention in May following the Government's announcement of reducing the NDIS growth expenditure in coming years. We continue to keep a close relationship with the NDIA and await recommendations from the Australian Government NDIS Review.
- Policy and Advocacy have been supporting the Disability Policy and Advocacy Advisory Group, with the National Disability Service organization, to update the RACP NDIS Guides for Paediatricians and Physicians. This has been an extensive project over the past 9-months and publication of the final document will occur late July-early August.

## Rehabilitation

- The [Bariatric Rehabilitation position statement](#) was launched on Tuesday 23 May. Over 100 people registered for the virtual launch event and the recording will soon be available on the RACP website and Medflix (member-only space).

## Palliative medicine

- Policy and Advocacy are forming a small group of physicians to develop a scoping document to update the Decision-Making at the End of Life in Infants, Children and Adolescents position statement.

## COVID-19

- On 24 April, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Long COVID and repeated COVID infections released its final report, [Sick and tired: Casting a long shadow](#). The recommendations within the final report strongly align with the recommendations put forward in the RACP [submission](#) to the inquiry in November 2022.

## Health care of workers

- The informal Lead Fellows for Accelerated Silicosis group (includes AFOEM, TSANZ, RANZCR and ANZSOM) has led the development of two recent submissions in April (joint AFOEM, TSANZ and ANZSOM): [Feedback on National Silicosis Prevention Strategy 2023-2028 and National Action Plan](#) and [Safe Work Australia consultation on a prohibition ban on the use of engineered stone](#).
- To promote take up of recommendations, subsequent strategic meetings were held with SafeWork Australia (3 May), the Department of Health and Aged Care (4 May) and Lung Foundation Australia (25 May). Dr Graeme Edwards, RACP-AFOEM lead spokesperson, has been appointed RACP-AFOEM representative on the Occupational Lung Diseases Network Steering Committee (Lung Foundation Australia).
- The RACP-AFOEM has applied to have two members give evidence to a South Australian Parliamentary Inquiry – Work Health and Safety (Crystalline Silica Dust) Amendment Bill and we are awaiting confirmation of this.
- The lead Aotearoa New Zealand spokesperson, Dr Alexandra Muthu, has recently been interviewed in television and radio programs (14 and 17 April) about occupational lung diseases.

## Aged Care

- Following a multidisciplinary Expression of Interest (EOI) process a RACP member has been appointed to the NSW Nursing and Midwifery Association Aged Care Roundtable, a forum for interested parties to work collaboratively to improve the provision of care in aged care facilities.

## Aotearoa New Zealand (AoNZ)

### Election Campaign

- The AoNZ Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) met in May to discuss the findings of the member survey and the political landscape analysis carried out by government relations firm, Capital. The AoNZ PAC resolved to focus election advocacy efforts towards workforce matters as the key theme. It is expected the priority areas and policy asks will be confirmed in early July when the AoNZ PAC will meet again. Following this AoNZ Policy and Advocacy will develop specific policy recommendations/asks that will form the basis of the election campaign.

### Recent Submissions

- A AoNZ RACP [submission](#) regarding telehealth was provided to the Medical Council of New Zealand (13 June). This submission was in response to their updated statement on telehealth. Key points raised in the submission include reducing the risk of drug harm through telehealth prescribing, ensuring equitable access to care regardless of the use of telehealth or not, and noted the risk of patients receiving care through telehealth from doctors outside of the jurisdiction of the Medical Council.

### Populations in Focus advocacy

- The AoNZ Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) Committee continues to have a keen interest in improving how workplace silica dust exposure diseases are managed in AoNZ. To advance advocacy in this area, a letter had been drafted from AFOEM to WorkSafe NZ to facilitate further engagement with this agency, with a focus on a regulatory review of the engineered stone fabrication sector being undertaken by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE). AFOEM AoNZ also attended a health monitoring workshop hosted by WorkSafe in June.
- A complementary launch of the Bariatric Rehabilitation Position Statement in AoNZ is planned for August 2023 as part of the Australian and New Zealand Metabolic and Obesity Surgery Society (ANZMOSS) conference in Christchurch.

## State and Territory Advocacy

### NSW/ACT

- The NSW Committee sent a letter to the new Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Health, the Hon. Ryan Park, MP to congratulate them on their new position and to request a meeting.

## Northern Territory

- The RACP President visited the NT at the end of June. A meeting was organised with the NT Health Chief Executive and the Chief Minister's Health advisor to discuss RACP advocacy priorities including youth justice and raising the age of criminal responsibility, alcohol harm minimisation and improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health and access to medical specialists. Visits were also organised with Professor Reuben Bolt, Deputy Vice Chancellor First Nations Leadership, Charles Darwin University; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Purple House.

## Queensland

- The Chair and selected members of the Queensland Committee, along with Policy and Advocacy Executive General Manager Nicola Lewis, and Policy and Advocacy Senior Policy Officer Samuel Dettman, met with Mr Michael Berkman MP, of the Queensland Greens Party, to discuss raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, advise on the RACP's climate change and health policy work, and to build an ongoing, effective relationship with the MP.

## Tasmania

- The Tasmania Committee provided a submission to the TAS Department of Health on their [Draft Long-Term Plan for Healthcare in Tasmania 2040](#), with several of recommendations reflected in the final plan.

## Victoria

- The RACP has written to the Victorian Government asking to reconsider the plan to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility via a staged approach (to 12 years by 2024 and then to 14 years by 2027) with exceptions and carve outs for serious offences.

## Western Australia

- The WA Committee sent a letter to the new Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Roger Cook, outlining concerns around Banksia Hill and the state of youth justice in WA.

## Submissions and endorsements

### Late March

- [RACP \(joint AFOEM, TSANZ and ANZSOM\) feedback on National Silicosis Prevention Strategy 2023-2028 and National Action Plan](#)
- [RACP Submission Impact of COVID on school students with disability](#)
- [RACP Feedback to the NT Alcohol Action Plan 2023-2025](#)

### April

- [RACP \(joint AFOEM, TSANZ and ANZSOM\) submission: Safe Work Australia consultation on a prohibition ban on the use of engineered stone](#)
- [RACP Submission to the Early Years Strategy Discussion Paper](#)

### May

- [RACP Submission to the Productivity Commission: Early Childhood Education and Care](#)
- [RACP Submission to Measuring What Matters](#)
- [RACP Submission on the Long-Term Plan for Healthcare in Tasmania 2040](#)
- [RACP Submission to the Senate inquiry into the provision of and access to dental services in Australia](#)

### June

- [RACP Submission to the MCNZ: Updated Telehealth Statement](#)
- [RACP Submission to the Australian Government's National Health Reform Agreement \(NHRA\) Addendum 2020-2025 Mid-term Review](#)
- [RACP Submission to the Senate Inquiry into assessment and support services for people with ADHD](#)
- Endorsement of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's [Hip Fracture Care Clinical Care Standard](#)

## Media and advocacy

### April

Media releases:

- [Paediatricians urge Council of Attorneys-General to listen to medical advice and raise the age of criminal responsibility | 27 April 2023](#)

- ['Listen to the experts' Paediatricians urge Victorian Government not to back down on decision to raise the age of criminal responsibility | 24 April 2023](#)
- [Physicians say Government has neglected regional healthcare as patients go without phone telehealth items | 21 April 2023](#)
- [College says solution to specialist shortage must start with training more specialists for rural and regional areas | 20 April 2023](#)

Media coverage:

- [Victoria will raise raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12. Here is what it means | SBS, 26 April 2023](#)
- [Victoria's age of criminal responsibility to rise from 10 to 12 | The Guardian, 25 April 2023](#)
- [RACP calls on Victorian government to raise age of criminal responsibility to 14 | The Guardian liveblog, 24 April 2023](#)
- [Calls to reinstate telehealth, a lifeline in the bush | Newcastle Herald, 21 April 2023](#)
- [Specialist wait times blow out to greater than six years, sparking renewed calls for change | ABC, 20 April 2023](#)

## Calls to reinstate telehealth, a lifeline in the bush

By Stephanie Gardiner

Updated April 21 2023 - 3:38am, first published 3:31am



Doctors want the government to reinstate Medicare items for long telephone consultations (MEDIANET IMAGES PHOTO)

### May

Media releases:

- [New research uncovers major link between PTSD and gut problems | 24 May 2023](#)
- [Social media helps junior doctors improve care and outcomes for older patients | 17 May 2023](#)



- [RACP welcomes Budget's substantive investment in primary health care but urges inclusion of specialist care to address complex conditions](#) | 10 May 2023
- [Paediatricians welcome ACT's move to listen to medical advice and raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility](#) | 10 May 2023

Media coverage:

- [Stress disorder link to poor gut health among veterans](#) | Canberra Times, 24 May 2023
- [Paediatric waitlist 'crisis' leaves regional Victorian families desperate to access care](#) | ABC, 19 May 2023
- [Reactions to the Federal Budget](#) | Croakey, 10 May 2023

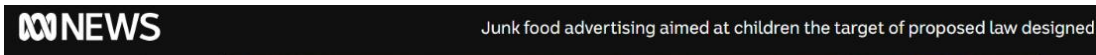
**June**

Media releases:

- [Physicians convene roundtable calling for urgent resourcing of health care for children in care and protection services](#) (21 June 2023)
- [Paediatricians launch campaign to crackdown on junk food advertising - targeting childhood obesity](#) (19 June 2023)

Media coverage:

- [Junk food ads targeted](#) | ABC The World Today, 19 June 2023
- [Junk food advertising aimed at children the target of proposed law designed to tackle childhood obesity](#) | ABC Online, 19 June 2023



Professor Nitin Kapur of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians says it is crucial the Australian government intervenes in junk food advertising. (ABC: Nabil Al-Nashar)

## Stakeholder meetings

### April

- 14 April: RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small, RACP President-elect Professor Jennifer Martin and Policy and Advocacy Executive General Manager Nicola Lewis met with Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) Prof Anne Duggan and A/Prof Carolyn Hullick.
- 24 April: meeting with Mr Stephen Bouwhuis, Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
- 24 April: meeting with Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) CEO Ms Kylie Woolcock.

### June

- 5 June: meeting with Mr Stephen Bouwhuis Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

## Government relations

### May

- 2 May: meeting with Mr Michael Berkman MP, of the Queensland Greens Party
- 16 May: meeting with Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care



Senator Anne Ruston with RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small, at the RACP Office.

- 17 May: PCHD President, Professor Nitin Kapur, provided evidence at the WA Parliamentary Inquiry into child development services.

## June

- 15 June: the RACP President Dr Jacqueline Small provided evidence to the ACT Government's Inquiry into the Justice (Criminal Age of Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the proposal to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility
- 20 June: meeting with Ms Leesa Markussen, Adviser to the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services
- 20 June: meeting with Mr Rory Chevalier, Adviser to Senator David Pocock, Independent
- 20 June: meeting with Emma Davidson MLA, ACT Greens - Minister for Disability, Justice Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Veterans, and Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services
- 20 June: meeting with Dr Mike Freeland MP, Australian Labor Party, and Dr Monique Ryan MP, Independent
- 22 June: meeting with Dr Gordon Reid MP, Australian Labor Party

## Your feedback

We understand the importance of feedback. Please complete a 2-question survey to help us understand if this is a helpful report and identify any improvements that can be made.

[Complete survey here](#)

## P&A Team

For more information, contact the Policy and Advocacy Team:  
[\*\*policy@racp.edu.au\*\*](mailto:policy@racp.edu.au) (Aus) or [\*\*policy@racp.org.nz\*\*](mailto:policy@racp.org.nz) (AoNZ)