

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee and Māori Health Committee

Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Statement of Principles for Justice and Equity

1. The RACP acknowledges ongoing injustices and inequities stemming from colonisation shape the lived experiences of Indigenous people in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
2. The RACP recognises that Indigenous culture, languages and customs are bound within national and cultural identities of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Indigenous knowledge and cultures are to be valued and protected, as set out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
3. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee and the Māori Health Committee recognise the work of the College Board and its commitment to the priorities of the Indigenous Strategic Framework. Both Committees affirm their commitment to the priorities of the Framework and will play a role in the oversight of its implementation. Both Committees look forward to opportunities for partnership, collaboration and meeting future challenges.
4. Indigeneity is valued by the RACP because the College is committed to excellence, standards and improving health outcomes. Indigenous doctors are recognised as bringing highly-valued and positive knowledge, skills and attributes to the Membership and the medical workforce.
5. Both Committees support all Indigenous doctors who meet the educational requirements having no additional barriers to entry into RACP training Programmes. If a doctor meets the requirements and identifies as Indigenous to Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, the doctor is accepted.
6. The RACP's Governance and Constitutional Review should be undertaken with the guidance of Indigenous constitutional legal experts, centring meaningful partnership and co-design. The principles of justice and equity should be articulated and embedded at every level within the RACP's governance structure.
7. The two Indigenous Committees of the RACP (the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee and the Māori Health Committee) should report to the College Board as the two peak Indigenous College bodies. This reporting function is articulated in the Terms of Reference of each committee.
8. Partnerships with the Board and its Standing Committees that uphold the sovereignty and authority of the Māori Health Committee and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee as the peak Indigenous Committees of the College should be established and maintained. This relationship respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Māori as the traditional owners and tangata whenua of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
9. Indigenous data sovereignty is important. Equally important is the need to ensure Indigenous data is collected, stored and applied consistently in line with best practice. There should be a framework guided by the two Indigenous Committees for Indigenous data sovereignty to be embedded within College governance structures.
10. The upholding of these Principles by Members and staff of our College reflects an unconditional commitment and appeal to the highest ideals of citizenship in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. We see this commitment as a necessary act for the advancement of equity within our College and within society.