



ADULT MEDICINE DIVISION COUNCIL

Meeting 04-2013

COMMUNIQUE

The following Communiqué highlights the key issues discussed during the AMD Council meeting 04-2013, held on Friday 8 November 2013.

RACP Board – consultation on the future membership

The Council noted that in response to feedback from the member survey, the RACP Board had proposed to cut the number of Board members. The College would hold a Special General Meeting on Friday 6 December for this purpose. Members were receiving regular updates from the College on this process, and a Board Communiqué would be issued in November.

College Education Committee

The CEC is now operating as a smaller, leaner governance body and the new format is working well. An Advanced Training Forum is to be held in December this year, this new initiative will be an opportunity for all specialties to meet and discuss common issues across Advanced Training.

College Policy and Advocacy Committee

Council noted that the RACP Board had discontinued the Expert Advisory Groups (EAG) within the College in favour of a more flexible Working Group model.

Members agreed that the new model was a more effective means of addressing specific issues. It was noted that the activities of the new Working Groups would be supported by a register of interested fellows managed by the Policy Reference Group. This would ensure that the Working Groups would be able to draw on the expertise of Fellows for project-based activities.

Council also noted that a non-refereed article had been published in a recent edition of the British Medical Journal claimed that the College would no longer be addressing ethics-related issues due to the dissolution of the Ethics EAG. This article had caused a significant amount of discussion and discomfort among within the College. The Council agreed that timely and effective communication to all members was a crucial aspect of managing such changes within the College, and would greatly assist with mitigating this type of situation in the future.

AChAM Pathway

The AChAM reported that it would establish a Masters Pathway for entry to Advanced Training. Council noted that implementing this pathway was a crucial aspect of the Chapter's push to increase the number of Addiction Medicine trainees. The Chapter Committee would submit a proposal to the CEC to approve the pathway in the New Year.

RACP End of Life Strategy

The Australian and New Zealand Society for Palliative Medicine has adopted a new position statement on the practice of euthanasia or assisted suicide. Council believed that inclusion of the topic of voluntary euthanasia in the Terms of Reference for the RACP End-of-Life strategy would need to be reconsidered by the RACP Board.

New AMD Council members

The Council welcomed the following new members

- A/Prof Mark Boughey – Specialty Society Representative (ANZSPM)
- Prof Markus Seibel – Specialty Society Representative (ANZBMS)

Dr Alasdair MacDonald
AMD President