

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

CPMC NEWS – DECEMBER 2016

For the past 30 YEARS, CPMC has been a strong voice for specialist Medical Colleges in Australia.



© CPMC L-R: Dr Bastian Seidel (RACGP); Mr Phillip Truskett (RACS); The Prime Minister Hon. Malcolm Turnbull; CEO; Laureate Professor Nick Talley Chair, CPMC and Dr Catherine Yelland (RACP).

Council Executive meets Prime Minister of Australia

Australia's specialist Medical Colleges Executive members met with the Prime Minister The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, on a variety of issues ranging from the sustainability of the health care system, economic and structural challenges, reforms and the National Health Summit on Obesity, all of which the PM demonstrated a strong understanding of, and a particular interest in the benefits arising from incidental exercise as well as tackling overweight early to avoid the broader health consequences from obesity.

In this edition of CPMC News we update you on Parliamentary activity, advocacy, policy and government relations, strategic issues and changes in College Presidents.

Find the latest Communique at: <http://cpmc.edu.au/communique/10-november-2016/>

Find us at: www.cpmc.edu.au or Twitter: @CPMC_Aust

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CPMC Changes its Name - At the November Annual General Meeting College Presidents voted to a name change to Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges. The first meeting of the CPMC was held in 1986, chaired by Mr D.G. Macleish, the President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and convened at the Sydney premises in Lower Fort Street of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The terms of reference for CPMC have remained the same as determined at that meeting, being to provide an effective means of communication between all Medical Colleges, enable joint activities to occur, and to provide authoritative advice, information and opinion to governments, other professional organisations, the media and general public. CPMC has continued to grow in influence over the past thirty years as the peak body for specialist medicine in Australia, working constructively with its professional stakeholder groups and influencing policy federally. The quarterly meetings provide regular contact between the professional groups and act as a valuable opportunity for exchange of information.

Parliamentary Update - The Executive has been busy undertaking government relations days which incorporates politicians and senior officials.



Recently CPMC enjoyed meeting a number of new politicians to the CPMC strategic agenda, as these photos show. In addition, Nick Xenophon and The Hon. Catherine King.

Enjoying the parliamentary garden and Aussie coffee – L-R Professor Talley, Dr John Batten (FRACS), Dr Bastian Seidel (RACGP), & Dr Catherine Yelland (RACP).

The Hon. Ken Wyatt, Member for Hasluck, WA; Assistant Health Minister



Meeting Assistant Health Minister The Hon. Ken Wyatt on issues such as MBS reform, ear disease study and Indigenous health general issues. The issues will be further explored with Minister Wyatt in the post Parliamentary Sitting.

The Hon Sussan Ley, Minister for Health, Aged Care and Sport



RACGP, RACP, RACS and CPMC Chair discussed the outcomes arising from the Summit on obesity and need for leadership in developing a national strategy to reduce obesity, as part of a range of other public health measures. CPMC Executive also discussed issues in relation to Australia's future health workforce, MBS reform, freeze and the future arrangements for the Specialist Training Program.

The Leader of Australian Greens, Dr Richard Di Natale



CPMC Executive discussed with Dr Di Natale a range of health policy issues which were of mutual interest including obesity, cost of health care, and challenges to the system, reforms and health workforce.

Dr Di Natale was interested in equity in access for all Australians to health and aged care.

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CPMC Chair co-launches the Australian Health Policy Collaboration: Getting Australia's Health on Track in Parliament House, Canberra on Monday 28 November, 2016



Getting Australia's health on Track, 2016 is the subsequent policy report to the chronic disease report card Australia's Health Tracker, 2016. Both were compiled by a national collaboration of Australia's leading chronic disease experts, and the report outlines ten priority policy actions for a healthier Australia by 2025. You can find it at: www.vu.edu.au/ahpc

House of Representatives Enquiry into Hearing Health & Wellbeing of Australians



The Enquiry has been called to build upon the 2010 report by the Senate Community Affairs references Committee into Hearing Health in Australia, and because ear disease is an entirely preventable disease. To facilitate the discussions and elevate this population health issue into the broader health priority sphere, the College of Surgeons convened an **Ear Disease Roundtable** in Parliament House on 24th November. This roundtable featured representation from each Australian jurisdiction

in ear, nose and throat surgeons, Indigenous ENT surgeons, public policy experts, and was met by the Assistant Health Minister Ken Wyatt, The Hon. Warren Snowdon, and Dr Mike Freeland, MP. Submissions close on 23rd December, 2016. You can find out more at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/HearingHealth

Other parliamentary Enquiries which may be of interest to member (click on the links)

- 68: [Current Committees](#)
- 86: [Current public inquiries](#)
- 31: [Open public Submissions](#)

Source: Parliament House

Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council – Health Workforce Principles Committee



A number of important policy oriented forums have taken place in recent months, all of which CPMC has been central to.

In August, NSW Health as the lead agency for HWPC occurred in tandem with CPMC convened a forum to examine a number of recommendations that emerged from the Review of Medical Intern Training, including an exploration of the level of support for and feasibility of developing a National training Survey. All Colleges will have recently received correspondence from NSW Health seeking their endorsement. Contact Liz Martin: limar@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

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CPMC NATIONAL HEALTH SUMMIT ON OBESITY- successful policy forum for 2016



The National Health Summit was attended by all of the peak bodies associated with focusing on obesity as a chronic disease, such as the Heart Foundation, Diabetes Australia, Dieticians Association, eminent academics, and associations involved in town planning and clinical research as well as all of Australia's specialist Medical Colleges, and the Australian Medical Association.



As an example of the challenge, attendees were shown the following slide which points to all of Australia's weight gain by 20205.

There was a great deal of media coverage for the event and CPMC worked swiftly to issue a Consensus Statement with recommendations arising from the Summit. You can find it all at:

<http://cpmc.edu.au/our-members/national-health-summit-on-obesity/>

You can find the media at: <https://croakey.org/six-steps-towards-effective-action-on-obesity-fat-chance/>

In meeting with Parliamentarians, it is clear that while a tax on sugar sweetened drinks is a challenge, all agreed that leadership and coordinated action was necessary to reduce the rate of obesity and prevent it.

Medical Regulation

The consultation by the Medical Board of Australia on the concept of revalidation for medical practitioners can be viewed at <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Revalidation.aspx> with submissions lodged to-date can be viewed at: <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

Other News

CPMC attended **AIDA 2016** in Cairns where individual College representation and participation was at its highest, the CPMC Chair Professor Nick Talley, RACS President Professor Phil Truskett and President, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association Dr Kali Hayward met to discuss new forms of collaboration to grow Indigenous doctors into medical specialists.

CPMC attended the International conference on medical regulation, **IAMRA 2016** and participated in the proceedings via Twitter: https://twitter.com/hashtag/regulationmatters?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

Membership Matters: CPMC Executive Members Elected for 2017

- CPMC Chair, Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley
- RACP President Dr Catherine Yelland
- RACS President Professor Phil Truskett
- RACGP President Dr Bastian Seidel
- President Australian College of Dermatology
- President Australian College for Emergency Medicine

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New College Presidents for 2016-18

A new President for the Australian College for Rural and Remote Medicine with the election of Professor Ruth Stewart, and for the the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, with Professor Stephen Robson assuming the role and a return to the President role for Professor Mark Daniell of the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists. A brief overview of each of these individuals is below.

ACRRM President- Associate Professor of Rural Medicine Professor Ruth Stewart, FACRRM



Professor Stewart functions from the Thursday Island campus, Atherton Clinical School at James Cook University. Professor Stewart has 26 years of experience living and working as a procedural rural and remote GP. Ruth is now a Senior Medical Officer on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait.

Professor Stewart has been elected as Chair, CPMC sub-committee on Indigenous which will co-Chair the Common Collaborative Forum, a collaboration between the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, CPMC, Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils and the Medical Deans. This is expected to convene in 2017.

RANZCOG President, Professor Stephen Robson, FRANZCOG



Steve is a general obstetrician and gynaecologist working in Canberra. In addition to his private practice, he is a VMO to the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children and a clinical academic at the Australian National University. He has a special interest in reproductive medicine and IVF, as well as laparoscopic surgery. Steve has many research publications and book chapters, and is the co-author of a popular textbook for medical students. He has a special interest in advocacy for women at disadvantage, including women in Pacific countries and women from culturally- and linguistically-diverse backgrounds.

RANZCO President, Professor Mark Daniell, FRANZCO



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) has elected Associate Professor Mark Daniell to be its new president. Prof Daniell is a senior consultant ophthalmic surgeon, heading the corneal service at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. He is founding chair of the Australia New Zealand Corneal Society and medical director of the Lions Eye Bank. Previously he was head of ophthalmology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He is also head of surgical research at the Centre for Eye Research Australia, with a research interest is a bioengineered cornea. It was said he had developed the concepts for and been a driving force for that project.

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Thank you to outgoing CPMC Directors who have all completed their terms:

- Professor Lucie Walters
- Professor Michael Permezel
- Dr Bradley Horsburgh



SEASONS GREETINGS FOR 2016

This is the final newsletter for 2016.

College Presidents wish everyone Seasons Greetings and for a happy and safe New Year.

**The CPMC Secretariat will close from 12 December
and re-open from 9 January 2017**