

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES NEWSLETTER

Welcome Minister Hunt



The Council welcomes Health Minister Greg Hunt whose first task was deciding on the level of insurance premium increases for 2017, where on 10 February premiums will rise by 4.84 per cent from April, or about \$200 more per year for families on average. Keeping on the theme of private health, the government's Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee is due to report this month on a range of reform proposals including new gold, silver and bronze categories.

CPMC has already discussed the four key pillars of CPMC's remit with the Minister as outlined in the CPMC Federal Budget submission.

- *Ensuring a sustainable Australian health care system* covering the MBS review, rebate freeze, review of pharmacy remuneration and regulation.
- *Ensuring a sustainable medical specialist workforce* is critical to assuring the population of the viability of Australia's health system. Therefore CPMC has called for:
 - A national medical workforce strategy which ensures a balanced supply extending out to rural areas is required and one which matches community expectations.
 - Three year funding agreements to provide certainty in planning for the Specialist Training Program.
 - Support for Colleges in the development and implementation of rural/regional curricula including increasing the number of trainees and Indigenous trainees.
 - Support for psychiatrists practising in rural/remote Australia.
 - The evidence/planning which has occurred to encourage newly-qualified specialists to leave major centres and move to smaller communities.
 - An increase capacity for training in the private sector.
- *Assuring Australia's health and wellbeing* means Australia needs a national obesity strategy; including alcohol consumption in the war on drugs campaign, and developing the new National Maternity Framework which includes all stakeholders in the process.
- *Assuring quality and safe health care delivery* through the development of a revalidation process for doctors; introducing national regulation of healthcare facilities and standards for all facilities, and developing a national critical drug list linked to a coherent strategy for minimising the impact of global or local drug shortages.

Parliamentary Update: in the current Parliament there are 108 Bills before Parliament, one Bill has assented, one Bill will not proceed (same sex marriage), 113 current committees, 46 public open inquiries. CPMC has submitted to the House of Representatives Enquiry into Ear Health. CPMC keeps a watching brief on Parliament and makes submissions on issues where related to the strategic plan.

CPMC Chair-Elect: Professor Phil Truskett, President Royal Australasian College of Surgeons was elected to the position of Chair-elect on 15 February 2017, and will assume the Chair role in November this year.

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Professor Phil Truskett AM is the RACS President, the senior staff specialist in surgery at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, and is involved with AusAid, the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards and the Trauma Society of Australia and New Zealand. He has also worked with children in East Timor and Myanmar as a rotational surgeon with AusAid and the Royal Australian College of Surgeons. Mr Truskett is a Fellow with the American College of Surgeons and an Honorary Fellow with the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland. He is a pro bono medical adviser with the Australian Jockeys Association.

CPMC National Health Summit on Obesity: Professor Talley writes in the latest Medical Journal of Australia that obesity affects almost a quarter of Australians, but help can be almost impossible to find. CPMC has listed the epidemic as a matter of importance for all governments to address and you can read more about what we are calling for at:

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2017/206/3/national-health-summit-obesity-calls-australia-take-action-stem-pandemic>

Choosing Wisely Implementation Symposium – Wellington, NZ 30 March 2017: There is a packed agenda [access here](#) with interesting and informed international and national speakers on all aspects of implementing Choosing Wisely. The registration fee includes access to all speakers, morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Register at: <https://choosing-wisely-implementation-symposium.lilregie.com/step1>

National Training Survey: The Medical Board will work with jurisdictions and stakeholders to implement the NTS by 2018. Watch the website: www.medicalboard.gov.au for more information.

Productivity Commission's Review of National Accreditation Systems: Professor Mike Woods has been appointed to conduct the review and expects to release a discussion paper on 27 February 2017. You can find out more about the review and process by going to:

<http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/Accreditation-Systems-Review>

Revalidation: CPMC will update its position in relation to a revalidation system for medical practitioners through its working party taking into consideration all the issues discussed at the recent joint CMC-MBA workshop.

Workforce: NMTAN met recently to discuss its 2017 work plan strategy and priorities for action. The Department of Health announced a new look **Health Workforce Data website** and the release of National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS) which contains fact sheets by profession, updated on a yearly basis for all professions, noting that medicine, nursing and midwifery data is to become available this year. The new look Health Workforce Data website is at: <http://data.health.gov.au/> and features relevant workforce publications, and high level health workforce summaries.

Australian Health Practitioners' Regulating Agency: has announced an online portal for complaints and concerns. This is for the public and offers individuals a clearer and simpler process when making a complaints or raising a concern about registered health practitioners and students. You can find it at: [new online portal](#)

2 new Psychiatry Guidelines on schizophrenia and on deliberate self-harm: go to www.ranzcp.org/guidelines The guidelines cover mood disorders, schizophrenia, deliberate self-harm and eating disorders.

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LINDA SMITH PROFILE FOR CPMC NEWS

Q: What do you do when you are not at work?

In the past I had taken part in activities involving my children such as scouts, or being heavily involved with the schools my daughter went to; I was even a band manager at one point! But now the children have grown up and I have a busier job I've focused more on home based pursuits such as photography and scrap booking.

Q: How long have you been the Chief Executive of the RACP?

Since December 2014.

Q: What made you decide to join the RACP?

I had an extensive background in health, and had then moved to a senior management role with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in Canberra. But I was keen to get back into healthcare and was interested in making a difference in provision of healthcare to the community. I joined RACP as their Director Fellowship Relations and was given the opportunity to be Interim CEO in May 2014 and of course now CEO.



Q: What achievements / highlights are you most proud of?

The last few years at the College have been really interesting. Supporting the Board to undertake its Governance Reform and have a successful outcome in moving to a smaller skilled based Board in 2018, was something I am very proud of, as well as supporting the Board to establish the College's Council. Delivering on a large technology program and embedding project management skills within the RACP have been other significant achievements.

Q: What is the key issue facing your College?

There's always the challenge of maintaining the most up to date and relevant training curricula for our 8,000 trainees, and world class continuous professional development programs for our 16,000 Fellows across 40 specialties. We also need to ensure our educational programs anticipate future developments in medicine and healthcare. The College is looking at the healthcare environment up to 15 years ahead, which is when today's medical students will become tomorrow's physicians.

OTHER COLLEGE NEWS

Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) celebrated 25 years on 7 February

Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017.

There will be three forums: **RACMA Summer Professional Development Forum: 23 – 25 February 2017** at RACV City Club, Melbourne. Go to: <http://www.racmacme.com.au/summer/> **RACMA**

Winter Professional Development Forum: 15 – 17 June 2017, at The Langham Melbourne. Go to: <http://www.racmacme.com.au/winter> **RACMA Spring Professional Development Forum & Annual**

Conference: 18 – 21 October 2017 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Australian Council on Healthcare Standards Congress 2017, jointly with ACHSM: 27-29 September 2017 Asia-Pacific Annual Congress in Sydney. Go to www.achsm.org.au/congress