



COUNCIL NEWS MAY 2018



The Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges is the unifying organisation for all of Australia's specialist Medical Colleges. We work with universities, Government Departments, research and training organisations, regulatory bodies, statutory authorities, students and consumers on a very broad range of policy issues. The quarterly CPMC forum is unique as it enables collective discussion between all stakeholders involved in medical education and training at the most senior levels of the organisations represented. Every year CPMC is also represented at the Council of Medical Colleges in New Zealand.

In this edition of CPMC News a series of updates are provided on the discussions held at the CPMC forum such as stakeholder responses to the recent Federal Budget, latest initiatives in rural health, the excellent work occurring between partners involved in the Indigenous health collaboration, relevant new legislation or Parliamentary enquiries along with general current issues.

The CPMC national office is based in Canberra near Parliament House, which can sometimes appear on television as comprising all work and policy but as these photos show, Canberra can at times be enlightened!



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SUMMIT ON AUSTRALIA'S MEDICAL WORKFORCE

CPMC presented at the AMA Summit which noted that a lack of cooperation between jurisdictions frustrated good policy development and made key workforce challenges very difficult to solve. The Summit highlighted a number of other key areas for action including the regulation of medical school places, the need to better support generalism, benefits of matching training with community need and providing more opportunities for specialist training in rural areas. CPMC was concerned to work with government to develop a strong rural training pathway and support careers in undersupplied specialties. There has been a call for the establishment of a National Rural Generalist Pathway. You can read the AMA report from the Summit at <https://ama.com.au/medical-workforce-training-summit>

FEDERAL BUDGET AND MEDICAL WORKFORCE

CPMC broadly supported the initiatives in the Federal Budget aimed at medical workforce. End to end training in rural medical school programs aligns with the concept of selection into training of rurally based students who want to remain in rural Australia.

There are many stakeholders involved in the training of medical students into specialists and the recent CPMC meeting was an opportunity for all organisations affected by the Budget measures to have a say and discuss them together. For example the mechanism for managing new Commonwealth supported medical school places by redistribution every three years is not supported by the Medical Deans. However, the quota on the number of temporary visas granted for GP international medical graduates capped at 2100 per annum is widely supported. There has not been sectoral support for the decision to allow more international full fee paying medical school places and regulation is necessary because any expansion continues to undermine efforts at effective workplace planning and coordination. CPMC welcomed the overhaul to the Bonded Medical Places and Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship programs.

FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EFFECTS



CPMC welcomed Dr David Pencheon OBE, and all Colleges to a roundtable forum on the health effects of climate change recently. Concerns in relation to increasing disposables, pressure on the environment and health effects from pollution were discussed. Here we all area in the photo.

Bringing stakeholders together to see the threat to human health from climate change and environmental damage was the aim. CPMC will be meeting with representatives from the Climate and Health Alliance to discuss joining.

CPMC RURAL GRANT PROGRAM EXTENDED TO 2021



The Department of health has agreed to an extension to the popular Support for Rural Specialists in Australia program which CPMC manages on their behalf.

The program is housed at the RACP, Sydney.

The SRSA program aims to provide support and training via online learning programmes, and individual grants to enable rural specialists to access training not available in their home town.

CPMC CEO is also the SRSA National Director and with the SRSA team of Bernard Bucalon and Sarah Srikanthan we have worked to deliver two funding rounds in the last 18 months, planning a further round before the end of year and evaluating the doctor's experiences as we go along.

See: www.ruralspecialist.org.au

We have ensured the maintenance and enhancement of the existing rural specialists website which involved reviewing existing material and updating content where appropriate; expanding it as a platform for use as an e-learning space; and providing CPD learning topics and themes such as Supervision skills, Cultural competency, Revalidation, Practitioners' mental health and Bullying and harassment.

There has been a strong demand for the program and its popularity has been extending into the more remote areas of Australia which is a positive reflection of the communication strategy and connection with other peak bodies such as the National Rural Health Alliance, and Rural Doctors' Association. Read interviews we have done with grant recipients at: <http://ruralspecialist.org.au/blog/>

While not directly connected to the SRSA program, CPMC has noted the call by the National Rural Health Alliance which has said that a person's life can be saved in an emergency with an online health record. The My Health Record is an online summary of health information and is now opt-out. Find out more at: <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au>

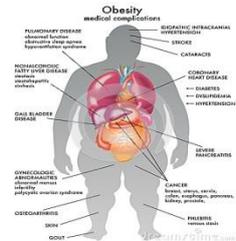
AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE & OBESITY ENQUIRY

Currently there are 68 Current Committees, 124 current public inquiries, 20 open public submissions and 17 upcoming public hearings. But CPMC is interested in one enquiry in particular: the Senate Enquiry into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Obesity_epidemic_in_Australia



This new Parliamentary enquiry will examine the impacts of Australia’s widening size. CPMC convened a National Health Summit on the obesity crisis in 2016 and called for more action to control the problem because of the health effects from obesity and pressure on the hospital and health care system. You can still read about the Summit findings in the CPMC report at: <https://cpmc.edu.au/our-members/national-health-summit-on-obesity/>



CPMC is pleased the Senate voted to establish a select committee to look at the causes of rising levels of obese and overweight people in Australia and how it affects children in particular. There will be interest from the food and drink industry, the school sector and health and medical sector. CPMC will make a submission and appear before the committee. A report will be released by August 2018.

CONFERENCE UPDATES

Four big conferences are coming up in 2018 which may interest.

World Hospital and Health care Conference: For healthcare administrators, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and Queensland Health is convening the 42nd World hospital and health service leaders from around the world to Brisbane 10-12 October 2018. Go to: <https://worldhospitalcongress.org/>

Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand at Bond University, Gold Coast 6-7 September

Australian Indigenous Doctors Association will convene in Perth on 26-28 September 2018 at the Crown Perth. Go to: <https://www.aida.org.au/conference/>

NACCHO 2018 will be held 31 October to 2 November at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane.

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