

66th Annual Faculty Member Meeting Chair's Report for FY23/24

We continue to work for Victorian Members on the issues that impact them, their work and their patients.

In May we had a significant win on payroll tax. The Victorian Government finally understood the threat that retrospective payroll tax bills were to General Practice businesses across the state and they committed to providing universal protection from these potential bills through the Treasurer's ex-gratia powers.

They also committed to ongoing relief in the form of an exemption from payroll tax for earnings from bulk billed consults.

Up to that time, the Victorian government had been the most stubborn in the country, in its refusal to address this issue. It's thanks to our collaborative efforts with our advocacy partners, and through a new connection with HotDoc – who provided shocking new data on the impact of payroll tax, and led to a front-page story in the Herald Sun. This wave of media coverage precipitated our first meeting with the Treasurer in more than a year which ultimately led to this compromise deal.

While the payroll tax issue has been the most pressing challenge over the past year we continue to advocate and negotiate on a range of issues including

- Regular meetings with the Health Minister and to discuss issues impacting GPs
- Meeting with the Mental Health Minister to discuss the shortage of Pharmacotherapy prescribers and threats from the regulation of safe-script
- Meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Health on a range of primary health care issues including, payroll tax, pharmacotherapy, pharmacy prescribing, and improving relationships between general practice and regional health services.
- We worked collaboratively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Faculty to make a submission to Victoria's Yoorrook Justice Commission as well as developing submissions to the Women's Pain Inquiry and Health Regulation Reforms and the Ministerial Review of Medical Workers in the Public Sector.
- Secured commitment from the Victorian Government for a \$10 million grant program to support innovation in general practice and funding to administer \$28 million in grants to incentivised medical graduates to choose GP Training.

Our projects team continue to provide support and education opportunities to Victorian GPs partnering with the Victorian Government and agencies on projects including MATOD Training, Family Violence Training, Dermatology workshops, a new program on the Victorian Child Information Sharing Scheme, and administering grant approvals and payments to more than 350 doctors entering GP training.

Events:

It has been wonderful to return to a full calendar of in person events. In July our AOD committee hosted the very successful GPs in Addiction Medicine Conference better known as GPADD. This was attended by more than 100 delegates including 90 GPs who gave excellent feedback

In March we hosted a wonderful celebration of Women in General Practice for International Women's Day with 70 attendees.

Last month we held the largest fellowship ceremony in the country for 2024, with more than 200 new fellows and their guests in attendance at the Pullman on the Park.

For the 23/24 year, 338 candidates were ratified and welcomed as New Fellows of RACGP Victoria. We congratulate all New Fellows on reaching this tremendous milestone in their careers!

Webinars:

We continue to run numerous webinars as well, including the popular Department of Health series, keeping our members up to date on public health issues and new initiatives.

Our committees hosted some special webinars including the IMG committee, which hosted a webinar on Untangling the Mysteries of Visas which was attended by 198 people.

And in March, the New Fellows Committee attracted 682 registrations for their Finance for Early Career Doctors webinar. This Committee's regular online and in person social catch ups continue to engage members and provide support to our New Fellows.

The Alt-Wednesday Webinar series continues to see steady numbers of attendees with expert guest speakers to address hot topics in the media and issues relevant to General Practice. The series has recently been revamped to better meet the CPD needs of GPs with the addition of optional Reviewing Performance and Measuring Outcomes CPD components.

Facebook groups:

We have two Facebook groups for access by members – the Victoria Faculty Facebook group (currently with 852 members) and the Victoria New Fellows Facebook group (currently with 484 members). We continue to post updates to these pages including upcoming CPD opportunities and research opportunities relevant to general practice.

Victoria Faculty Projects:

The RACGP Victoria Faculty is dedicated to advancing general practice through innovative education and support initiatives tailored to meet the evolving needs of our healthcare community. Our projects focus on enhancing the skills and knowledge of GPs in critical areas, including family violence awareness, child safety, and addiction treatment.

Through collaborative efforts with key stakeholders, we aim to empower GPs with the resources and training necessary to provide high-quality care to their patients.

Overview of Projects

Family Violence GP Education Program

The Family Violence GP Education Program aims to enhance the knowledge and skills GPs in identifying and responding to family violence. This initiative is crucial for improving patient outcomes and ensuring that GPs are equipped to support individuals affected by family violence effectively.

The program encompasses various learning formats, allowing for flexible and comprehensive education tailored to the needs of GPs. Year-to-date participation statistics reflect significant engagement across different activities:

Activity	2024 participation
Peer Group Learning	53
Lunch and Learn (1 hour group meeting/day)	76
Dine and Discuss (1 hour group meeting/evening)	39
eLearning modules (x4)	201
Workshops for GP Trainees and GP Supervisors	138
TOTAL	507

These figures indicate strong participation in our educational offerings, underscoring the commitment of GPs to enhance their understanding and skills in this vital area of healthcare.

Child Wellbeing in Focus – A GP education webinar series

The Child Wellbeing in Focus webinar series is designed to equip GPs with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively address child health and wellbeing, with a particular emphasis on the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS). This initiative recognises the critical role GPs play in the early identification and management of issues affecting children and aims to enhance their understanding of the framework for sharing information to protect and support child wellbeing.

We are currently seeking GP facilitators with a special interest in child wellbeing. If you are interested in being a facilitator or have any questions, please contact Kerrianne at Kerrianne.singleton@racgp.org.au

Schedule of dates

Date & Time	Webinar title	Details
28 Nov, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Nurturing Futures: Ensuring Child Wellbeing and Safety	More information
11 Feb, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Proactive Care: Early Intervention for Child Wellbeing	More information
25 Feb, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Connecting the Dots: Inter-Agency Coordination - Child Information Sharing Scheme	More information
11 Mar, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Guiding Principles: Legislation and Child Information Sharing	More information
25 Mar, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Data Diligence: Privacy and Child Information Sharing Schemes	More information
8 Apr, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)	Responsibility in Focus: Legal and Ethical Child Information Sharing	More information

Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD)

The MATOD program is designed to provide comprehensive support and resources for GPs involved in the management of patients with opioid dependence. This initiative emphasises the importance of integrating pharmacotherapy with psychosocial support to optimise patient outcomes.

Activity	2024 participation	
	In progress	Completed
eLearning modules	383	53
Face to face workshops	35	
TOTAL	471	

GP Trainee Grants Program

The Victorian Government is supporting medical graduates to choose general practice as their specialty training through a special grant.

The Victorian Department of Health GP Trainee grants program aims to:

- increase the number of GP trainee enrolments in 2024 and 2025;
- provide a top-up payment for first year trainees of \$30,000; and
- provide \$10,000 to support the costs of exams to be undertaken during GP training.

The grants comprise a maximum of \$40,000 and will be delivered in three instalment payments over 24 months.

The RACGP is funded by the Victorian Government to deliver a total of 356 grants in 2024 and 355 grants in 2025.

Year-to-date statistics

Cohort	Round 1	Round 2
	No. of Grants Awarded	No. of Grants Awarded
2023.2	24	20
2024.1	238	37
2024.2		36
TOTAL	262	93



CPD:

The Victoria CPD team has made a significant impact on supporting member success by assisting them with their annual CPD requirements. This marks the second year of the new Medical Board of Australia CPD requirements. During June and July, CPD National conducted a mid-year check-in through our monthly CPD newsletter. Many VIC members shared their feedback, which provided valuable insights into the team's success and dedication to supporting our members.

- More than half (56%) report being on track to complete their 2024 CPD
- While 78% agreed that logging CPD activities on myCPD was simple and straightforward, only 43% reported being confident in allocating CPD hours across the three activity types
- Heart-warmingly, 82% are confident with the RACGP being their CPD Home
- A whopping 99% of the respondents using the solutions report that they are helpful!

RACGP Victoria CPD team has used effective communication channels to engage members to assist with their CPD. As we approach the end of the annual CPD year, we recognise that the team has actively and continuously encouraged new ways to support members, which has created a significant impact on the way we work day to day. The RACGP Victoria CPD team has built a network of more than 144 accredited education providers which includes more than 211 qualified CPD Representatives.

Examinations:

In 2023.2 RACGP Victoria saw 152 candidates sit the KFP, 163 sit the AKT and 271 sit the CCE exam with 122 examiners & 13 QA examiners. In 2024.1 RACGP Victoria assisted 187 candidates to sit the KFP, 181 to sit the AKT and 318 sit the CCE exam with 122 examiners & 13 QA examiners.

Thank You:

- I would like to thank all the Chairs and members of the Council and subcommittees whose commitment and enthusiasm allows RACGP Victoria to deliver quality education and services to members and to the overall profession in Victoria.
- I would like to thank out-going Victorian Council members: **Dr Carl Jansz, Dr Larissa Roeske, Dr Primo Bentivegna, Dr Yi (Peter) Cheng, Dr Yan (Alex) Mu.**



- Thanks to Co-Deputy Chairs **Dr Aadhil Aziz** and **Dr Bindiya Sethi**.
- Thanks to **Dr Edward Vergara** as Victorian Censor – his efforts and contribution are to be commended.
- Thanks to **Adjunct Professor Karen Price** in her role as Provost.
- I also thank **Alice Crowley** who has been acting State Manager of RACGP Victoria over the past year. We wish her all the best in her next roll with the college. She has been ably assisted by **Alex Grima** our Faculty Officer, **Sanya Gandhi** our Member Engagement and Events Coordinator and the **Victorian Projects Team**.
- The achievements of the past year are the result of Victorian members and staff working together. As the faculty continues to build on the strength and relevance of our College, it looks forward to another year of successfully delivering events, activities and services that support all of our members.

Warmest regards,

Dr Anita Muñoz
Victoria Faculty Chair