

RACGP response to questions

Official College response to operational questions submitted by members to the President Candidates as at 6 August 2026

Question	RACGP response
Can I please ask the presidential candidates if they can commit to a freeze / reduction of RACGP membership fees and what they will be doing to reduce costs / improve efficiency within the RACGP.	Over the last three years the College has worked hard and put in place a financial sustainability plan with strong financial governance and disciplines to: 1. safeguard the College from the financial challenges it faced four–five years ago. 2. to protect the College from any major financial challenges it could face in the future such as another pandemic, 3. more importantly to have the ability to reinvest in Member services, research and advocacy. As part of this the College is committed to drive efficiency and cost improvements and has done so in the last two years. In terms of fees freeze or reduction, the normal inflationary pressures are a constant challenge for any organisation and the College is not immune to these. Staffing costs are predicted to increase through enterprise bargaining pressures and non-staffing costs in most areas are growing at the rate of 5-8%. In this environment freezing or reducing membership fees will place the College on a backward step in being able to invest in advocacy, research, direct member and programme support (e.g. FSP), CPD and in improving systems.
Is the RACGP considering any future plans to help or absorb experienced GPs who are unable to achieve Fellowship?	The RACGP recognises that some experienced general practitioners may face challenges in achieving Fellowship. While the RACGP does not have plans to “absorb” practitioners who have not met Fellowship requirements, the College is committed to supporting doctors at different stages of their professional journey. The RACGP continues to review its education and assessment programs to ensure they are fair, evidence-based, and responsive to workforce needs, while maintaining the standards expected of the profession and the community. The College also works with governments, regulators, and other stakeholders to support a sustainable GP workforce and to recognise the valuable contribution of experienced GPs across Australia. Any future changes to pathways or support arrangements would need to balance workforce considerations with the College’s responsibility to uphold the standards associated with Fellowship and specialist general practice recognition.
What are your programs/plans to IMGs settling in Australia?	The RACGP recognises the important contribution international medical graduates (IMGs) make to general practice and to communities across Australia, particularly in areas experiencing workforce shortages.

	The College supports IMGs through a range of pathways and programs designed to assist their professional integration, training and career progression. These include guidance on Fellowship pathways, educational resources, exam preparation support, continuing professional development opportunities and resources to help navigate Australian general practice standards, systems and regulatory requirements. Information about current IMG pathways, eligibility requirements and available supports is available on the RACGP website and is updated regularly as programs and policies evolve.
Would you be willing to review and address a case(s) of ineligibility for vocational registration?	Decisions regarding vocational registration are generally governed by the relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks and are not determined solely by the RACGP. Individual cases should be assessed through the appropriate established processes to ensure fairness, consistency and procedural integrity. The RACGP President can advocate for transparent, evidence-based and equitable pathways to ensure that concerns raised by members about eligibility processes are heard and considered through the appropriate RACGP and regulatory channels. However, any review of an individual case would need to occur through the proper governance, assessment and appeals mechanisms, rather than through direct presidential intervention.

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