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RACGP message

KP's Call to members

Dear colleague,

This is one of the most important elections in a long while. I would love to represent a strong, innovative, collaborative voice as the RACGP President which will ensure 'business does not go on as usual'. What I offer is a track record of delivering on creating new platforms for engagement at a time when the College desperately needs to increase trust with the membership.

Using my extensive experience as a Practice Owner, Contractor, PhD researcher in education and support, as RACGP Victoria deputy chair, Chair of Women in GP, and founder of GPDU, I will ensure member advocacy, value and peer support are key priorities for RACGP in 2021.

GPDU which I founded with a small team of like-minded GPs is a highly engaged robust community which has energised and revolutionised the voice of Australian General Practice. Engagement has been something every candidate and the RACGP has talked about for years. Yet, today, GPDU at nearly 8,000 members is the most engaged GP learning advocacy and support platform in Australasia. During Covid-19 we have had 250,000 engagements in a month and delivered hundreds of face shields via networks I've built.

I recognised there was a desperate need for a forum where GPs could talk to one another, learn from one another and be heard. And that is why I am running for President of the RACGP because I believe the College, which is the main standards, education and advocacy body for the profession, has to be responsive to members, has to listen, enlist and energise the membership. Only then can the profession meet the challenge to grow primary health care at a time when the needs and challenges have never been greater.

I will not flinch from doing the hard work that is needed for all of us. I bring people together. I've done it on GPDU, leadership teams, and in my community. I can do it again at the RACGP. I can take it all the way into national advocacy for GPs. Inactive complaining will not suffice, nor will tactics alone, we need strategy too. Conservative and reactive thinking, with lousy deal-making presented as realistic engagement with power, is why we are where we are. I will not sign a compact. Business and government want to own us and we must be thinking ahead if we are to confront the powerful forces arrayed against us.

We have seen General Practice under-funded and underestimated for a long time despite the incredible meaningful and effective work we all do across Australia. This is particularly relevant in the COVID-19 pandemic when GPs were overlooked in the national response with: a combination of poor PPE supply, the Federal-State dysfunctions of funding, and the glossy political attractiveness of associating health with a hospital.

I will spearhead a revolution in GP rebuilding, rebranding, and rewarding. I would love your help to do it.

As a leader I developed one of the first and most effective GP peer to peer platforms in the world and as President I would ensure the College will listen to GPs and fight effectively to

deliver in their interests. It is time for a change and a new approach because clearly business as usual has not worked.

My detailed candidate statement with my innovative policies and strategy can be found at karenprice.com.au and if you have any question, do not hesitate to send me an email or message on GPDU. We can do this together; we must do it together.

Best wishes,

KP