

Dr Mariam Bahemia – Candidate for RACGP WA Council

General practice is an extraordinary specialty. Its strength lies in the breadth of our medical expertise, our ability to manage complexity and uncertainty, and the relationships and continuity we provide throughout our patients' lives. I remain enormously proud to be a Specialist General Practitioner and want to see our profession recognised and valued accordingly.

I have had the privilege of serving as an RACGP WA Council member and past Co-Deputy Chair. I am standing to represent GPs across our profession—from those just starting out, to experienced colleagues and practice owners, and those working across metropolitan, rural and remote communities. Their experiences and priorities are diverse, and listening to them matters.

At the same time, we must be prepared to defend what makes our specialty valuable. Increasing fragmentation of care and scope expansion by other health providers risk reducing general practice to a collection of tasks that can simply be separated and redistributed. They cannot replace the medical training, breadth of knowledge, continuity and whole-patient care of a Specialist GP.

My contribution to the RACGP has extended across advocacy, policy and education. During the WA Firearms Act reforms, I represented the RACGP on the Health Advisory Working Group, helping to make the health assessment guidelines more workable for GPs, and later represented our profession before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legislation. I have met State and Federal politicians, including travelling to Canberra with an RACGP delegation, and represented general practice in hospitals and professional forums. I continue to use every opportunity to promote our specialty.

Being at the table matters—but being prepared to challenge, influence and advocate when you are there matters even more.

Education has been equally important to me. As past Chair and current member of the RACGP WA Education Committee, Medical Lead, Senior Clinical Lecturer at UWA, conference presenter and mentor, I have worked with medical students, GPs in training, New Fellows and experienced GPs. I want talented young doctors to choose our specialty and GPs throughout their careers to feel that their professional future is worth investing in.

My role on the Board of Doctors' Health Advisory Service WA reflects another of my commitments: supporting the health and wellbeing of doctors and medical students.

I bring experience, established relationships, independence of thought and a willingness to speak up—but also a willingness to listen and to consider different views.

I would be privileged to continue to work for RACGP WA members, and ask for your support.

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