



Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.




The RACGP
Annual report 2012–13

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Dr Michael O'Sullivan MBBS, FRACGP,
DA (UK), DRACOG, FARGP

**“General practice gives
me the opportunity to
become involved in my
community and to care
for patients through all
stages of life.”**



A/Prof Marie Pirotta MBBS, FRACGP,
Grad Dip Epi & Biostats, M Med, PhD

“The nexus between clinical general practice and doing research is one of the best things about my job. My patients are a constant inspiration for research questions.”



Dr David Knowles

Message from the Chair

Welcome to The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) 2012–13 Annual report.

The RACGP is the specialty medical college for general practice in Australia, responsible for defining the nature of the discipline, setting the standards and curriculum for education and training, maintaining the standards for quality clinical practice, and supporting general practitioners in their pursuit of excellence in patient care and community service.

Our growing membership base reflects the confidence in our profession and also the clear voice of general practice's role in supporting healthy communities in Australia.

This year's Annual report theme, 'In my practice...' provides the opportunity to delve into the diverse world of general practice, both inside four walls and beyond. From urban streetscapes to rural and remote settings, sports grounds, aged care facilities, and flying doctor services, GPs play a pivotal role in supporting the health and wellbeing of all Australian communities.

I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Councillors, and our President, Dr Liz Marles, and acknowledge their tireless commitment and enthusiasm towards realising the College's aims and objectives.

Dr Peter Baquie MBBS, FRACGP, FACSP, Dip RACOG, DOH

“General practice experience and challenges in the rural community of Foster, South Gippsland has been excellent grounding for my role as team doctor in sporting communities.”





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About the RACGP

General practice provides person-centred, continuing, comprehensive and coordinated whole person healthcare to individuals and families in their communities

83 percent of Australia's 22.6 million population saw a GP at least once in 2011–12*

GPs are managing an estimated 20.5 million more chronic condition encounters than they did 10 years ago*

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners (GPs).

We represent the interests of all GPs in Australia and are proud that more than 21 000 Australian-registered GP members choose to be involved with the College.

We offer our members access to a vast suit of clinical resources, business support tools, education programs and are proud to advocate for the general practice profession on behalf of all GPs.

*The University of Sydney, 'Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH)', November 2012.

RACGP Vision Statement and Strategic Business Model



The RACGP Vision Statement and Strategic Business Model are used by College Council, College committees and College staff to ensure the clarity and currency of our strategic priorities.



Members of the 55th RACGP Council

The College is governed by the RACGP Council comprising the President, Censor-in-Chief, General Practice Registrar Representative, the Chair of each state/territory faculty, Chair of the National Rural Faculty, Chair of the National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, and any additional members co-opted by Council to the extent allowable under the RACGP Constitution.



Dr David Knowles
Chair, RACGP Council
Chair, Tasmania Faculty



Dr Liz Marles
RACGP President



Neil Greenaway
Co-opted member
Chair, Finance, Audit and Risk
Management Committee



Adjunct Associate Professor
Frank R Jones
Chair, Western Australia Faculty



Associate Professor Brad Murphy
Chair, National Faculty of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Health



Associate Professor Morton Rawlin
Chair, Victoria Faculty
Chair, National Faculty of Specific
Interests



Dr Eleanor Chew
Chair, Queensland Faculty
RACGP Vice-President



Dr Emily Farrell
General Practice Registrar
Representative



Dr Jennie Kendrick
Censor-in-Chief



Dr Kathryn Kirkpatrick
Chair, National Rural Faculty



Professor Nigel Stocks
Chair, South Australia and Northern
Territory Faculty



Dr Guan Yeo
Chair, New South Wales and
Australian Capital Territory Faculty



Dr Liz Marles

Message from the President

The RACGP, Australia's peak body for general practice, continues to grow from strength to strength.

I am immensely proud of the support the College provides to our members in their daily practice and to the overall standing of the general practice profession at large. Our recent member's guide illustrates the many tangible member benefits on offer, as well as outlining support provided by our education and advocacy sections of the College.

The College maintains an active and strong presence with government and other key stakeholders, contributing to related committees, round tables and submissions. The College is the convenor of United General Practice Australia, a conglomerate of Australia's general practice organisations, and through this role is able to shed light on the key general practice issues affecting the profession.

The College is proud of the increasing recognition of the RACGP's Medical Home concept, which formalises the ongoing relationship between a patient and their regular GP to produce

“The College maintains an active and strong presence with government and other key stakeholders, contributing to related committees, round tables and submissions.”

improved health outcomes. Prominent reports including Health Workforce Australia 2025 further lend support to the value in investment in primary healthcare to ensure a sustainable healthcare system for the future.

Training the next generation of general practitioners is also critical to address the growing strain on our workforce. Our supervisors do a superb and selfless job sharing their knowledge and supporting the next generation of GPs, and for this I thank them. I encourage others

to consider lending their time and talents to this imperative role as additional supervisors are needed in line with the growing popularity of general practice as a medical speciality.

We have a vibrant rural faculty, supporting over 8600 GPs electing to work in rural and remote areas of Australia. Our National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health is also driving an impressive number of key projects, many of which support our members to help close the gap in



Dr Liz Marles and President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Grant Kardachi



Dr Liz Marles and Hon. Tanya Plibersek

life expectancy and poorer health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared to non-Indigenous Australians.

As you turn the pages of this year's Annual report, I encourage you to reflect on the images included within. Comprising a patchwork of Australian general practice, the images demonstrate the hard work of our colleagues supporting their individual community's unique health needs. You will also hear the buzz of activity flowing from each of our state faculties, as relayed by our Faculty Chairs.

General practice is truly a noble career and one we can all be proud to be part of. In July this year, I had the good fortune of celebrating the appointment of Professor Michael Kidd (RACGP Past President) as President of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA). This esteemed achievement has provided a wonderful platform for Professor Kidd to once again reinforce the role of family medicine in providing high quality primary care not only in Australia but all around

the world. In closing, I commend each and every one of you for your contributions to the community. I feel Dr Jenny Wray (AM), RACGP General Practitioner of the Year 2011, said it well upon accepting her 2013 Queen's Birthday Honour, "all GPs do an amazing job and deserve daily recognition".



Dr Liz Marles and Dr Guan Yeo at the 2013 Graduation Dinner



(L-R) Dr Karen M Flegg, Prof Michael Kidd, Dr Liz Marles, Prof Amanda Barnard at the 2013 WONCA Conference in Prague



Zena Burgess

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

This year's Annual report captures the essence of general practice; a profession that embodies diversity, compassion, challenge and a highly skilled workforce.

As a College, our role is to support our GPs in all aspects of their general practice journey. Listening and responding to our members' needs underpins our work.

From the development of clinical and business resources, provision of local support through faculties and delivery of high quality education offerings, the College works hard to ensure the general practice profession is both rewarded and recognised for its vital role in Australia's highly regarded health system. As a College and the largest representative body of the general practice profession, we are grateful for the tireless commitment and dedication provided by the members of the 55th RACGP Council.

As CEO of the RACGP I am privileged to oversee the large volume of work undertaken by our brilliant College staff. I believe each and every staff member strives to be responsive, friendly and professional, and to contribute to the best of their ability. Special mention needs to be made of

my direct team who are always willing to contribute to meet the needs of our GP community:

- Josephine Raw, General Manager, Policy, Practice and Innovation
- Emily Wooden, General Manager, Member Services and Operations
- David Worland, General Manager, Education Services
- Peter Dewhirst, General Manager, RACGP Products
- Alexis Hunt, General Manager, Human Resources
- Helen Gaskin, Executive Assistant
- Rina Hatzispyrou, Council Coordinator

I would also like to acknowledge the huge body of work undertaken by each of our National Standing Committee (NSC) members, official representatives and College spokespeople. Thank you to each of these individuals and groups who have represented the College offering their expertise, inspiration and generous time commitment. Through the collaboration between members and staff, the College is able to produce highly regarded guidelines,

well-founded submissions and provide insights on the continued strategic direction of the College reflecting the profession's priorities.

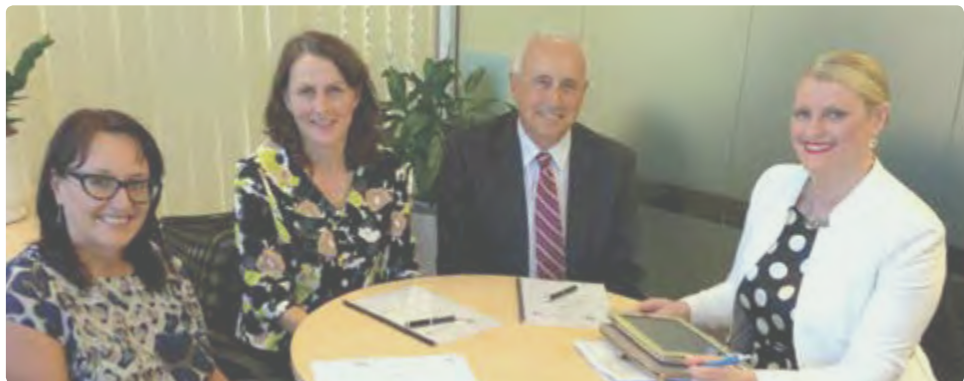
A special mention to our Corlis Travelling Fellows – the guardians of our profession – who after years of general practice experience graciously provide advice, regional leadership and support, and stakeholder liaison, for the betterment of the general practice profession and support of registrars.

This year we farewelled Dr Eric Fisher from the Finance, Audit & Risk Management (FARM) committee. I personally wish to thank Eric for his work as an adviser, both formally and informally, during his years of service on one of the College's critical committees.

Of course the RACGP would not exist without the energy and support of our doctors. General practitioners are true community leaders and the backbone of Australia's health system. Thank you for your ongoing support of your College.



(L-R) Zena Burgess, Prof. Claire Jackson and Prof. Clare Gerada attend GP12 on the Gold Coast



RACGP and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia sign Memorandum of Understanding



Neil Greenaway

Message from the Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee Chair

Members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee for financial year 2012–13 include:

- Mr Neil Greenaway (Chair and co-opted Councillor)
- Dr Liz Marles (President)
- Dr David Knowles (Chair of Council and Chair, Tasmania Faculty)
- Adjunct Associate Professor Frank Jones (Chair, Western Australia Faculty)
- Dr Charlotte Hespe (College Fellow)
- Mr Mark Evans (external representative with IT expertise)
- Mr Tony Monley (external representative with financial control and risk management expertise).

Financial performance

The College's consolidated operating performance continues to be positive, the balance sheet position remains strong and the organisation maintains a strong cash position. During the year, the College sold the previous premises in South Melbourne and moved into new premises in East Melbourne housing the National office, Victoria Faculty,

National Rural Faculty and National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Bank facilities used to help fund the purchase of the new premises are being repaid and repayments are currently ahead of schedule.

Internal and external audit

The College has appointed independent firm Protiviti as its internal auditor. A 3-year internal audit plan has been developed and, as part of this plan, four reviews were completed in 2012–13. No significant issues were identified in the reviews completed to date. Internal auditors are invited to attend the regular committee meetings. External auditors, RSM Bird Cameron, regularly meet with the committee during the audit to report on the audit plan, review progress and any issues identified. There were no significant issues raised with the College following the audit and, again, the auditors issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

Risk management activities

The College has continued to strengthen and develop its whole-of-organisation risk management

approach. Management is committed to ensuring that risk management and its awareness are embedded throughout the organisation. During the year, management updated the risk management policy and reviewed the risk management framework.

The College maintains a detailed risk register which identifies, classifies key risks and allocates responsibility and actions to mitigate any adverse outcomes. Recommendations and outcomes from internal and external audit reviews are recorded and actions monitored to ensure issues are appropriately resolved.

Appreciation

I wish to thank each committee member for their support and significant commitment of time and expertise. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Professor Nigel Stocks (Chair, South Australia & Northern Territory Faculty), Dr Eric Fisher (Past President and Life Member) and Ms Joan Morgan (External Representative) who stepped down as committee members in October 2012. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the College's management team, in particular CEO, Zena Burgess.



Interior of the new RACGP National office



RACGP National office in East Melbourne

A photograph of Dr Nick Carr, a middle-aged man with grey hair, smiling and standing with his arms crossed. He is wearing a light pink button-down shirt and dark trousers. He is positioned in front of a brick wall and a metal fence with a green hedge behind it. A red sign with the letter 'F' is visible on the fence to the right. The background shows a residential street with houses and a clear sky.

Dr Nick Carr MA, MMed, MB, BChir,
DCH, MRCGP, FRACGP

“Twenty-five years
working in the same
place and never a
dull day. We see
everyone and
everything – that’s
the joy of general
practice.”



Member Services and Operations

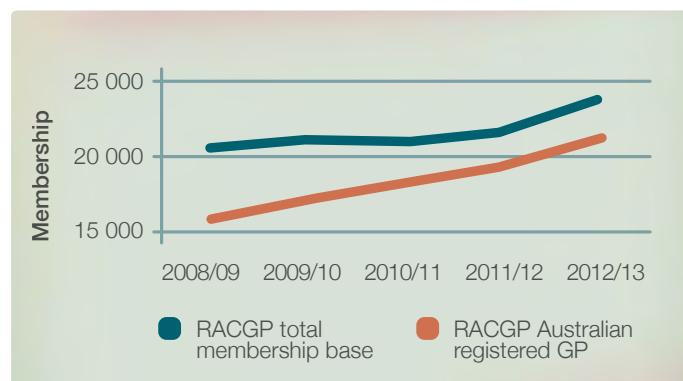
Our members are the RACGP. Member Services and Operations focus on responding to our members' needs and providing valuable services. Our aim is to deliver responsive services that promote optimal engagement with our members. One of our major projects this year was to update the RACGP website to help our members and stakeholders better navigate and find information about the RACGP and general practice. The RACGP also rolled out an improved approach for responding to telephone and email queries and will continue to respond to these queries in a timely and effective manner.

Membership overview

Over the past 12 months, the Membership team has worked hard to provide practical member benefits to support GPs in their practice. This has included the introduction of a wide variety of events and workshops Australia-wide as well as an array of clinical and business resources for improved practice management. In addition to this, one of the key highlights was the registrar study bursary competition. The competition, sponsored by American Express, gave two RACGP registrar members the opportunity to be awarded a \$4000 study bursary to use toward the RACGP Fellowship examination. The participants were required to answer three specific questions promoting general practice and to submit their entry in the form of a video, song or written piece. This competition actively supported and engaged our RACGP registrar members with an overwhelming 39 high-calibre entries received. The competition also assisted the College to promote general practice as a career via peer-to-peer contact.

The 2012–13 year marked a significant milestone for the RACGP, with a record level of 21 041

The RACGP Australian registered GP membership continues to grow.



Australian-registered GP members joining the RACGP or renewing their membership, an increase of 8.7 percent from the 2011–12 financial year. Our total membership base reached 23 673 and this includes our 'budding' GP members (medical students, residents/interns and international medical graduate-affiliates), as well as our overseas members. It was a privilege to

acknowledge the longstanding support of 808 Life Members in 2012–13, an accomplishment achieved by GPs who have been members of the RACGP for more than 35 consecutive years, a testament to the amazing dedication of GPs to the profession and the patients they serve.



Professor John Murtagh and Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder officially open the RACGP National office in East Melbourne



Alison Gilmour, RACGP registrar study bursary winner, and Dr Guan Yeo



Marlene Pearce, RACGP registrar study bursary winner, and Professor Morton Rawlin



Dr Guan Yeo

New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

Thank you to all members, staff and Faculty Board for your continuing support and contribution to the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Faculty in 2012–13. Without the support of more than 400 of our members acting as Medical Examiners, Medical Educators and/or Representatives on committees, 19 volunteers from the local community, 31 New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Faculty Board members and 14 dedicated Faculty staff, we would not be able to deliver our education, products and services to support our 7000+ members.

This year the Faculty has successfully collaborated with government and key stakeholder organisations, such as NSW Health and Medicare Locals, to develop and deliver face-to-face education for our members in regional areas.

Over the year the Faculty has worked with NSW Health to successfully deliver the Domestic Violence Education Program as part of the RACGP's Keeping Families Safe – GPs working with patients experiencing family violence project. In March the Faculty, in collaboration

with the RACGP's National Faculty for Specific Interests, joined with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to run the 2nd Medicine in Addiction Conference. More than 380 participants joined, of which 23 percent were RACGP members.

From April–June the Faculty delivered 75 e-health events face-to-face or as webinars, reaching more than 1800 GPs and practice staff from 900 practices throughout NSW and the Australian Capital Territory. The Faculty travelled a total of 12 000 km, reaching as far north, east, west and south of the state and territory as possible.

In total the 2012–13 year saw 136 events, including our exams, delivered to more than 2800 members, candidates and Australian Medical Council attendees.

With the benefits of a regionally representative Board ensuring the Faculty has better insight into your local community, we will continue to provide improved services for members.

“In total the 2012–13 year saw 136 events, including our exams, delivered to more than 2800 members, candidates and Australian Medical Council attendees.”



Burmese GP delegates visit the NSW Faculty



Dr Andrew Knight presenting at the NSW&ACT Secondary Use of Data Seminar



Associate Professor Morton Rawlin

Victoria

The Victoria Faculty has had a highly successful 2012–13 financial year. It prides itself on engaging with members, providing a quality educational program and offering opportunities for members to network with peers. The Faculty also understands the importance of engaging with key stakeholders and partner organisations, having met with a number of key stakeholders in the past year to emphasise the importance of GP-led primary care.

In 2012–13, the Faculty developed and delivered 14 educational events. Some highlights from the year included the delivery of the Everyday D&A conference, held in collaboration with the Faculty's Drug and Alcohol Committee and the National Faculty of Specific Interests' Addiction Medicine Network and the re-establishment of the Faculty's Women in General Practice Committee's annual conference, which had the theme of Advancing Women in General Practice. The Faculty also continued with its annual Dermatology for General Practitioners workshop, which saw over 120 delegates in attendance.

The Faculty's New Fellows Committee continued with its successful MentorLink program to promote informal peer support for new Fellows in the general practice workforce. This program benefits the participants' practice and assists in establishing professional peer networks outside daily practice networks. The program also provides social, psychological and technical support providing the opportunity for top-down and bottom-up learning.

An annual highlight is the Victoria Faculty Fellowship and Awards Ceremony. The ceremony saw more than 100 newly ratified Fellows admitted to the Fellowship of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, with nine Life Member trophies presented. The Faculty was also proud to acknowledge its panel of examiners, presenting three Life Examiner awards, recognising 20 years of service to the panel of examiners, and 10 Long Service Examiner Awards, recognising 10 years of service to the panel.

The coming year is an exciting one for the Faculty. We are committed to ensuring we continue to conduct an

“The Faculty also continued with its annual Dermatology for General Practitioners workshop, which saw over 120 delegates in attendance.”

excellent examination and furthering the educational needs of GPs. We aim to continue to consolidate the growth of our membership through supporting and engaging with members, conducting events that will further their professional development and representing them in the growth of general practice in Victoria.



Dr Alexandra Murray and Dr Liz Marles at the VIC Faculty Awards night



Dr Charles Alpren presenting at the 2013 Women in General Practice Conference



Dr Eleanor Chew

Queensland

The past 12 months has seen a continuation of the Queensland Faculty's strong commitment to providing quality education to our members. Our signature event, the Clinical Update Weekend, presented more than 30 hours of clinical education on a range of diverse topics for attendees. I would like to thank the Faculty Education Committee, led by Dr Rakesh Padarath, for its hard work in bringing together an engaging and contemporary program.

Our Sub-faculty has also continued to support members in North Queensland, successfully delivering all segments of the Fellowship exam in Townsville, and rolling out an education weekend in Cairns. Under the leadership of Dr Paula Heggarty, the Sub-faculty has continued its tradition of providing a forum and voice for RACGP members in the north of the state.

This year has also seen the Faculty facilitate more than 16 e-health workshops across Queensland, enabling the Faculty to deliver education programs to regional and rural members in places such as Mt Isa, Rockhampton, Toowoomba,

“In my practice ... we frequently use the RedBook. We find its evidence-based information very helpful in guiding preventative health activities for patients.”

Gladstone and Bundaberg. I would like to thank our Corlis Travelling Fellow, Dr Jim Griffin, for his tireless work in supporting these events.

The Faculty has also focused on local advocacy on behalf of members, and continues to play an important role on the Queensland General Practice Alliance. This has enabled the Faculty to establish direct access to the State Health Minister, and work through some of the challenges associated with the devolution of service delivery

from Queensland Health to the local health and Hospital Service Boards.

As always, there is more to do and I look forward to working with the Faculty Board over the coming year as we continue this important work.



(L-R) Ms Ros Melrose, Hon Dr Chris Davis, Dr Eleanor Chew and Romaine Moore at the QLD Faculty Board Stakeholder Meet & Greet



55th Clinical Update – General Practice Kaleidoscope Gala Dinner



(L-R) Lisa Rusten, Dr Eleanor Chew, Hon Dr Chirs Davis at the QLD Faculty Board Stakeholder Meet & Greet



Adjunct Associate Professor Frank R Jones

Western Australia

The Western Australia (WA) Faculty strives to meet the needs of members by supporting excellence in general practice; the provision of quality clinical education is naturally a core function. This year we have also provided a collegiate forum to share ideas about the day-to-day running of practices. Some Western Australian practices can be viewed as 'centres of excellence' and the sharing of business innovation concepts from them is advantageous. The WA Faculty has maintained its central advocacy role in negotiation with stakeholders.

Highlights this year have included:

- WA membership continues to rise
- 435 GPs attended 14 Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record events across WA
- the delivery of a plan for geographical representation on the WA Faculty Board; we remain focused on reflecting member opinion across the state, encouraging positive discourse and debate
- the delivery of a smorgasbord of educational activities including matters of the Heart: Health

“In my practice ... eHealth has revolutionised quality patient care and improved patient outcomes. My practice has been paperless for 14 years, and we could not envisage life without e-health.”

issues in teenagers, procedural medicine and the new Fellows education series

- WA members gathered at College House throughout the year, for various peer and stakeholder meetings, including evidence-based medicine journal club and exam study groups
- the initiation of the Centres of Excellence forum, encouraging members to share ideas in practice innovation
- educational support for international medical graduates (IMGs) working towards fellowship, including the inaugural IMG forum
- 61 GP members completed FRACGP examiner training

- multiple stakeholder alliances. Of note, a continuing alliance with Health Department of WA network groups, a GP hospital liaison group and positive contributions to the WA Clinical Senate
- the Faculty is breaking new ground in looking at multidisciplinary care. GPs must maintain their pivotal role in the coordination of patient care, and members have again contributed to educational events involving allied health colleagues.

It can be challenging to meet all members' needs, but the Faculty board and staff at the WA Faculty remain committed to the provision of quality services to all our members.



WA Faculty with Associate Prof Frank Jones and Past President Claire Jackson



Prof Claire Jackson and WA faculty board at 2012 Fellowship & Awards Ceremony



Lesions session at the OBPS workshop WA Faculty



Dr David Knowles

Tasmania

The Tasmania Faculty of the RACGP is the human face of the quality and standards that the College generates, maintains and defends.

The Faculty provides access to a vast resource of accumulated knowledge and understanding developed over more than 50 years by GPs for GPs including all the milestones of their career.

It is the customer-service interface, interacting with members, patients and medical students; the support base on which our registrars rely, and the guiding hand for our colleagues from overseas. It is the clear voice of the general practice profession in Tasmania.

The Tasmania Faculty has capably responded to the needs of its members, actively undertaking engagement with the Tasmanian public to encourage strong relationships between GPs and their patients that better support health outcomes in the community.

In addition, the Faculty has strived to build valuable professional relationships with all segments of our stakeholders including students,

“In my practice ... quality general practice is about providing the individual care my patients and my community needs. My Faculty supports me to do this by providing the framework, by looking after its members, by supporting my community.”

educators, registrars, experienced GPs and statutory bodies.

The Faculty will continue to seek those valued touch points that best serve our members and the wider Tasmanian community. With the support of our Faculty, Tasmania is a great place to be a GP.



Dr David Knowles at the RACGP Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Joint Health Stop Exhibit



Dr Susan Hodgman, RACGP examiner, talking to general practice students



Professor Nigel Stocks

South Australia and Northern Territory

The South Australia and Northern Territory Faculty has enjoyed a successful and productive 2012–13. The Faculty continues to pride itself on supporting quality in general practice and building on existing relationships with our members, stakeholders and our ‘budding’ GPs. In 2013, the Faculty trialled delivering educational sessions around South Australia and Northern Territory and we hope to be able to continue offering rural and outer-metro education as a regular part of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program. The education program for GPs and their practice teams during the past year included 20 general practice education sessions, a series of Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record seminars delivered around the state and territory and full day workshops in Dermatology and Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and SA Health.

The CPR Train the Trainer Project is a South Australian initiative developed in collaboration with representatives from the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC), Adelaide to Outback GP Training Program and Sturt

“In my practice ... my practice manager finds the information and advice from the state and national staff to be most helpful. Particularly for staff training needs, practice accreditation queries and confirming appropriate staff award levels.”

Fleurieu Education and Training. The program aims to produce a group of GPs with the ability, confidence and competence to assess and teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and basic life support within the context of general practice and will assist GPs in obtaining their CPR requirements in the QI&CPD program.

In 2013, the South Australia and Northern Territory Faculty continued their strong focus to support IMGs both in education and in the provision of Pre-Employment Structured Clinical Interviews (PESCI) for candidates seeking

positions in general practice in South Australia.

This year the South Australia and Northern Territory Faculty ran an extra exam rotation in Adelaide enabling an additional 18 candidates to sit the exam locally and Northern Territory saw a 12% increase of their examiner pool.

Up in Darwin, preparations are taking place for GP13 and we look forward to this exciting milestone on the Northern Territory calendar of events and hope to see you there.



Dr Rob Hosking presenting a PCEHR seminar at Somerton Surf Lifesaving Club



The SA&NT New Fellows November 2012

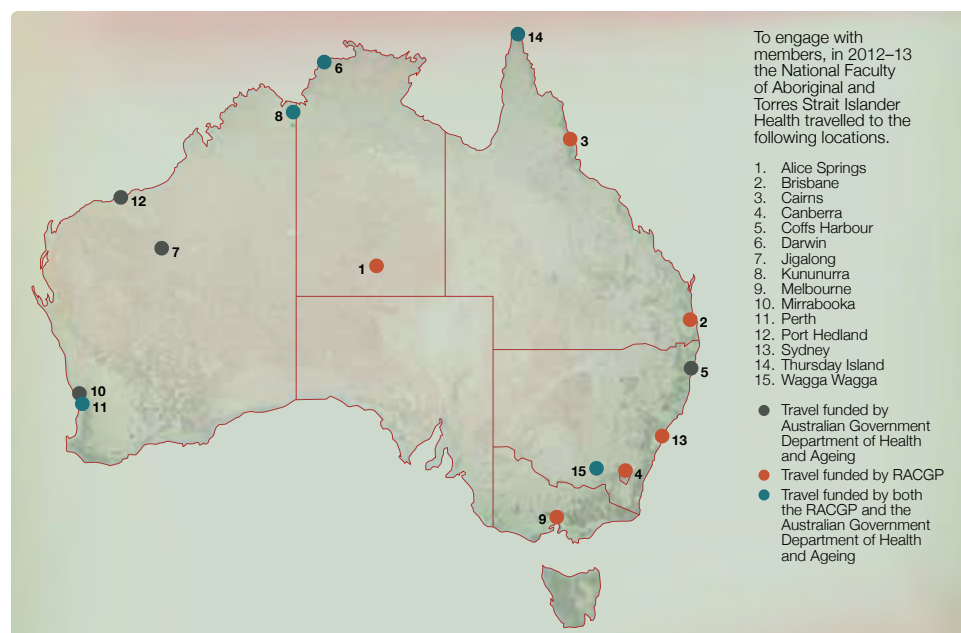


Associate Professor Brad Murphy

National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health's commitment to developing resources and guidelines to assist GPs and their practice teams has continued this year. Following the 2012 launch of the National Guide to a Preventive Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, a joint resource with National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), 13 workshops have been conducted across Australia to promote the guide and build confidence among health professionals to utilise the recommendations. The Faculty has also published the 2nd Edition of the Interpretive Guide to the RACGP Standards for general practices for Aboriginal community controlled health services to explain the Standards in a meaningful way, taking into account the context, culture and service delivery models.

Education initiatives have been a focus of the Faculty this year. Under the leadership of Professor Jenny Reath, Chair of the Faculty's Education Committee and through sustained efforts of our Honorary Provost, Ms Mary Martin, and Faculty Censor, Dr Hung The Nguyen, the Faculty has hosted the Indigenous Fellowship



Excellence Program, written questions for the FRACGP exams, reviewed cultural awareness activities for GPs and provided input into the new vocational training standards for GPs. I commend the committee on their leadership and efforts.

The Faculty continues to enhance its partnerships with the Minister for Indigenous Health, government departments, NACCHO and its state affiliates, Australian Indigenous Doctors'

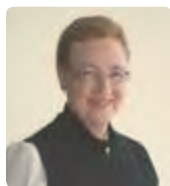
Association, Close the Gap Steering Committee, Australian Medical Association Indigenous Health Taskforce, Australian General Practice Training and General Practice Registrars Australia. It is through effective partnerships that the Faculty can continue its efforts to ensure GPs are able to provide culturally and clinically appropriate care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.



(L–R) Mary Martin AM, A/Prof Brad Murphy, Melissa Sweet, Mick Gooda and A/Prof Mark Wenitong at GP12



(L–R) Justin Mohamed (NACCHO), Dr Sophie Couzos (NACCHO), Minister Snowdon, Donna Ah Chee (NACCHO), A/Prof Brad Murphy at the National Guide launch



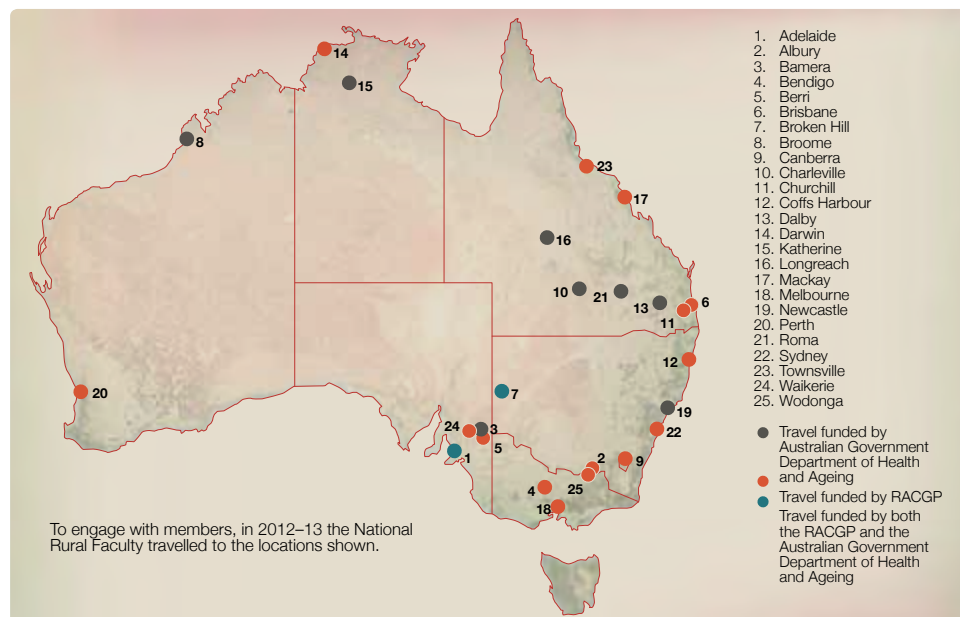
Dr Kathryn Kirkpatrick

National Rural Faculty

Finding new and innovative ways to engage with our rural membership has been a particular focus of the National Rural Faculty (NRF) this year. The new rural and remote Policy Forums have provided a practical means to collaborate with members and the new student forums have facilitated direct engagement with student members. The forums with students have given the NRF insights into the aspirations and interests of our student members as well as providing opportunities for the NRF to promote the diversity of and opportunities for a career in general practice in rural or remote Australia.

The NRF has contributed to various rural health workforce reform initiatives to ensure reforms continue to deliver positive outcomes for our members. We have seen a significant period of government review of workforce programs, which may signal substantial reforms to the Australian health workforce if the recommendations are adopted. Our contribution has emphasised the need to work with our membership in rural and remote Australia to ensure rural communities have access to optimal primary care.

A number of Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record seminars



were hosted in rural and regional Australia by NRF staff and a clinical lead provided the opportunity for members to meet with NRF representatives face-to-face. The events were held in Broome, Broken Hill, Longreach and Katherine with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing.

Enrolments in the Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice

continue to increase with the new online learning platform proving to be a positive experience for both registrars and practising GPs.

The NRF continues to support the general practice workforce in rural and remote Australia and we look forward to further collaboration with our membership (which is at an all-time high), partner organisations and government departments in the coming year.



National Rural Faculty Board celebrates the 20th anniversary of the NRF



Dr Kathryn Kirkpatrick with student bursary winner, Thomas Boosey



Dr Sue Page at the National Rural Faculty GP12 Rural Health career check session



Associate Professor Morton Rawlin

National Faculty of Specific Interests

The National Faculty of Specific Interests (NFSI) supports GPs in their practice by recognising the additional interest and expertise held by GPs in selected areas of general practice. It also facilitates GP members practising in these areas to promote areas of specific interest and to share and develop related knowledge and materials.

Over the past year, in recognition of their extended skill set in specific areas, NFSI network Chairs and members have increasingly been called upon as an expert resource to inform the development of College standards, curriculum and policy. They have also been asked to represent the College on expert panels and to respond to external submission requests on behalf of the College.

The networks have continued to be active in the development of conferences and meetings that represent opportunities for all GPs to up-skill in different areas of practice and also supported the RACGP conference by offering sessions and workshops.

“The momentum of the Faculty continues to build, and with the most recent Council endorsement of the Cancer and Palliative Care network, the number of networks currently stands at 19.”

The momentum of the Faculty continues to build, and with the most recent Council endorsement of the Cancer and Palliative Care network, the number of networks currently stands at 19. Three networks, the Chapter of Military Medicine, the Integrative Medicine network and the Psychological Medicine network, now hold the status of Endorsed Working Group and each is progressing towards the development of a diploma in their area of specific interest, which will be offered through the College.

All networks stand ready to support to the College in whatever capacity is needed, with the aim of better outcomes for our patients.



MIA2013 conference



Morton Rawlin presents at the NFSI GP12 dinner



Delegates at the meet the Network Chairs lunch



Professor Peter Mudge

The RACGP Foundation – Inspiring a healthier tomorrow

- Supporting research conducted in general practice settings
- Helping to grow the evidence base for general practice – nationally and internationally
- Attracting and disseminating funding to drive new and improved patient outcomes
- To find out more please visit: www.racgp.org.au/support/foundation

It has been an exciting year for all those involved in the RACGP Foundation. Activities include the popular Foundation Walk at the GP12 conference and the planning of an inaugural participative fund-raising adventure. Conquer Kokoda for a Cause will see a group of GPs and others tackle the Kokoda Track in September 2013, creating an opportunity for members to assist participating colleagues in their fund-raising efforts and for College staff to help the RACGP staff representative achieve her fund-raising goal.

Funds raised by the Foundation through strategic partnerships and member support include grants, awards, and scholarships to support important general practice research.

This continued investment in general practice research is vital – building a valuable body of evidence relevant to general practice is central to improving delivery of care to all Australians.

Thank you to RACGP members, the broader community and our partners for your continued support and generosity.

Kind regards,

Professor Peter Mudge
Patron, RACGP Foundation



Conquer Kokoda for a Cause



RACGP Foundation Walk at GP12

RACGP Research

The RACGP promotes and supports high-quality research as a core aspect of general practice through the work of the RACGP National Standing Committee – Research (NSC–R), and the National Research and Evaluation Ethics Committee (NREEC). Research is essential to improving the quality of care for Australian patients and ensuring GPs provide a service that is both clinical and cost effective.

The NSC–R advises Council on research-related issues, and advocates for the development of general practice research capacity in Australia and career support for general practice researchers. It also promotes critical thinking and research skills as central components of the RACGP curriculum and training.

The NREEC is a human research ethics committee with a focus on general practice research. In the past year the committee has reviewed a number of general practice-related research proposals to ensure the protection of the welfare and rights of the participants.

RACGP John Murtagh Library

The John Murtagh Library's hybrid service model caters for members' varied information and resource needs offering a high quality staff-delivered information and resource service complemented by a broad range of web-based and mobile self-service resources. The library supports members' clinical work as well as their educational and research endeavours. The last 12 months has seen increased usage recorded for the library's ebook collections and full-text subject databases. The library team has undertaken development work to update content on the library's website and to assess potential new databases and tools.

Key service and resource improvements include:

- new EBL ebooks across a wide range of subject areas
- new titles and editions added to the ebook collection on the AccessMedicine platform
- developing a new resource portal for researchers with input from members of the NSC–R
- complete updating of the library's web content for the College's new website.



Dr Dennis O'Connor presents the Hip and Shoulder pain workshop at GP12



Tony Parsons delivering library user support and training via a web interface

A photograph of a red car parked in front of a house. The car is a dark red color and is parked on a paved surface. A person's hand is visible on the right side of the car, resting on the roof. The background shows a house with patterned curtains and a white wall.

Dr Claire Hepper
MBBS, FRACGP, DIP Palliative Care

**“Ballarat Hospice
Care is an amazing
specialist ‘Hospice
in the Home’ service
that empowers and
supports local GPs in
their ongoing practice
of palliative care.”**



College Products

The RACGP Products Division is responsible for the commercialisation of products and services developed and produced by the RACGP. It researches and develops the concepts to meet the requirements of our members, general practice principles and their staff, and then works with the College departments to develop these products and services. In addition, the Products Division also works closely with College departments to optimise existing products and services for current and future markets.

The Conference for General Practice – GP12 success

The RACGP offers a range of events and workshops throughout Australia with a focus on education and collegiality, with the pinnacle of the RACGP events calendar being the College's annual conference.

'GP12' – the Conference for General Practice – was held on the Gold Coast during October 2012. Attracting local and international keynote speakers, health reform, e-health and indigenous health were just a few of the key topics covered over the 3-day event. The College was fortunate to be joined by the Minister for Health, The Hon. Tanya Plibersek. Addressing delegates at the opening ceremony, Minister Plibersek announced \$2.55 million funding for the RACGP to lead a number of e-health initiatives aimed at supporting GPs to confidently engage with the PCEHR.

Darwin will provide the idyllic and cultural backdrop for this year's annual conference, GP13. 'Individual. Family. Community.' is the overarching theme of this year's conference, which will revolve around the following streams: dermatology, clinical skills across general practice, musculoskeletal medicine, pain management and chronic conditions, education and training, and business in practice.



“Minister Plibersek announced \$2.55 million funding for the RACGP to lead a number of e-health initiatives aimed at supporting GPs to confidently engage with the PCEHR.”



Capt Nicole Curtis, Vice Chair Chapter of Military Medicine at the GP12 dinner



GP12 Student Challenge



Group of guests at NFSI dinner GP12

Publications

Australian Family Physician

AFP is the RACGP's flagship journal. With over 40 000 copies distributed to GPs and physicians, *AFP* maintains its position as the highest circulating medical journal in Australia, with the greatest credibility and highest level of confidence among Australian general practice journals. It is generously supported by over 250 peer reviewers.

Good Practice

In 2012–13, *Good Practice* introduced readers to many remarkable Australian general practitioners serving their communities and profession. Regular topics included insights from GPs reflecting on their own practice in Portraits of General Practice, GP Profiles and more recently, medico-legal articles.

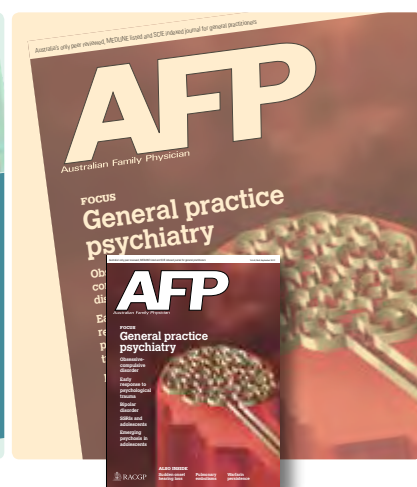
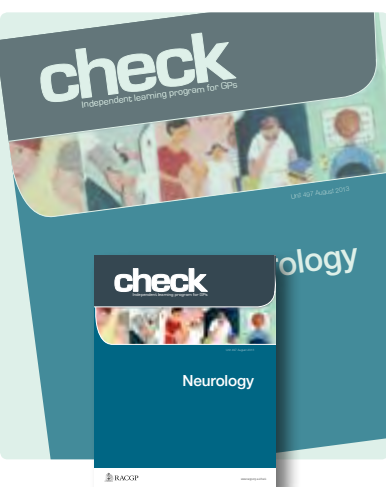
check Program

check is a member-only publication offering case-based learning to loyal readers. Topics in 2012–13 included dementia, paediatrics and chronic hepatitis.

gplearning

gplearning develops and offers online education to RACGP members across all stages of the general practice journey. Content development is directed and reviewed by GPs to ensure it offers the most value to everyday activities and decisions. Activities released in the last year include first trimester screening, disaster and trauma-related mental health, and diabetes management.

Case of the Month continues to be a popular *gplearning* activity. It introduces a case in the first week and encourages GPs to participate in an online forum. Each week, the case develops alongside the online conversation.



A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, stands outdoors with his hands in his pockets. He is smiling at the camera. The background features a modern building with large windows and lush green trees.

Dr David Mullen MB BAO BCh,
FRACGP, MICGP, DRCOG

**“The Lorne
Community
Hospital is dynamic
in its services to
meet the needs of
our community, it’s
a fantastic place to
work.”**



Education Services

The primary purpose of the Education Services Division within the RACGP is to set and assure standards for all aspects of a GP's training and ongoing education across the lifelong general practice journey.

In that context, we are focused on the provision of exceptional education services to our GP members and other stakeholders. In 2012–13 we have continued our focus on improving GP education outcomes through the piloting of new outcomes-based training standards, development of a Bi-College Regional Training Provider (RTP) model, moves to significantly increase Fellowship examination capacity, as well as preparing for the launch of a streamlined, technology-enabled QI&CPD interface from 1 January 2014.

The Education Services Division continues to work in close partnership with the National Standing Committee – Education, the Board of Censors, the Board of Assessors and various project groups established to progress strategy development on behalf of the College and its RTPs.



Dr Jennie Kendrick

Message from the Censor-in-Chief

The Board of Assessment together with the education and assessment division had another busy year. The College welcomed 1078 new Fellows who had successfully passed the RACGP assessment processes in the past year. Much activity has been undertaken around quality assurance of the assessment processes and capacity planning for the increasing number of candidates wishing to undertake the College exam.

The revised RACGP Vocational Training Standards are close to being finalised. These outcomes-based standards should allow for increased flexibility to adapt training to regional needs and local practice environments within a quality and safety framework.

Education Services – key projects

Australian Medical Council accreditation

On a 4-yearly basis, the RACGP has an accreditation review undertaken by the Australian Medical Council (AMC). This review is a comprehensive and transparent analysis of the RACGP's performance in Australian general practice training and education against the AMC's medical education standards. After submission of a written report, the RACGP works with the AMC to coordinate a wide range of site visits to education providers and stakeholders, as well as the collection of a wide range of performance data. The outcomes of the accreditation process will be known to the RACGP by December 2013.

Vocational Training Standards

The outcome-based RACGP Vocational Training Standards will be launched from 1 January 2014. The objectives of the new standards are to provide more flexibility for the increasingly diverse supervision

needs of general practice registrars, whilst ensuring ongoing improvement in quality and safety outcomes. Piloting key aspects of the draft standards commenced in 2013.

Bi-College RTP accreditation project

The RACGP is working in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) to develop a Bi-College RTP accreditation model. The new accreditation framework will be operational from 1 July 2013. Both Colleges have mapped their vocational training standards to a single accreditation template that will be used during site visits to assess RTP compliance with College standards. A single accreditation report will be produced at the conclusion of the site visit and endorsed by the RACGP Council and ACRRM Board, inclusive of any accreditation conditions imposed on the RTP.



Lesions session at an OBPS workshop



Student Obstetrics workshop



WA Faculty Board and New Fellows at 2012 Fellowship & Awards Ceremony

QI&CPD

After feedback and consultation with our GP members, the RACGP will launch a streamlined, user-friendly 2014–16 QI&CPD triennium on 1 January 2014. The focus on QI will be strengthened, with a mandatory quality improvement activity embedded as a Category 1 learning module. A suite of quality improvement tools will support this change in focus. A streamlined, technology-enabled interface will provide a one-stop-shop for every GP's QI&CPD needs. Provider accountability will also be increased with an enhanced focus on corporate due diligence and a refined quality review model driven by GP member feedback and benchmarking.

Education Services – Summary of activity

From an educational perspective, the RACGP's vision 'Healthy Profession. Healthy Australia', is achieved by developing and maintaining the standards for all aspects of a GP's training and education across the lifelong general practice journey. This

includes undergraduate education, the early postgraduate years, registrar training in general practice, RACGP Fellowship and assessment pathways and the continuing professional development of GPs.

In 2012–13 significant education-related activity included:


- over 1250 candidates sitting one or more segments of the Fellowship examination
- 12 000 phone calls and over 3000 email enquiries handled on Fellowship-related enquiries
- 191 000 instances of GP attendance at CPD activities from over 500 accredited activity providers and over 4600 accredited activities
- in excess of 950 GPs attending the Clinical Emergency Management Program and completion of 190 online modules for the Certificate of Dermatology program
- 14 000 learners enrolled in an online learning activity.



OBPS workshop



WA Faculty Chair A/Prof Frank Jones addresses the audience at 2012 Fellowship & Awards Ceremony

A full-page photograph of Dr. Eugene Goh, a man with glasses, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie. He is standing outdoors, leaning on a silver metal railing. Behind him is a large, dense green bush and a building with a light-colored wall. The ground is paved with reddish-brown bricks.

Dr Eugene Goh MBBS, MBA (Melb),
MAICD

**“I enjoy the immense
breadth, flexibility
and satisfaction as
a GP working with a
dedicated local team
to lead my patients
into better health.”**



Policy, Practice and Innovation

The Policy, Practice and Innovation Division supports GPs through developing tools and resources supporting both the clinical and business components of working in general practice. This includes providing clinical guidelines, standards to support systems and guide delivery of care across different primary care settings, resources to enhance practice management, education packages and guides to navigate the e-health changes occurring in Australia. Advocating for and representing general practice at all levels of government and with key external organisations strengthens the position of the RACGP and general practice.

With a focus on supporting quality and safety in general practice, the work of the Policy, Practice and Innovation Division is supported by members of four of the RACGP's National Standing Committees: eHealth, General Practice Advocacy and Support, Quality Care and Standards for General Practices. These NSCs provide advice on the development and implementation of the tools and resources, in line with RACGP Council's strategic plan.

Policy, Practice and Innovation key projects

Quality Care

The College has a long and proud history of leading the primary care quality agenda and supporting its members in their pursuit of excellence in patient care and community service. The Quality Care program area in conjunction with the National Standing Committee – Quality Care (NSC-QC) champions and facilitates high quality general practice and positions general practice to make substantial contributions to the emerging quality initiatives within the Australian health system.

Through developing resources and knowledge in areas such as population health, quality and safety, preventive health, multimorbidity, aged care and chronic disease, the College works to ensure that general practice has the knowledge and tools to deliver the highest quality healthcare possible.

Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice: 8th edition launched at GP12

To facilitate evidence-based

preventive activities in primary care, the RACGP has published the Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice (the red book) since 1989. The 8th edition of the red book was launched at GP12, and is widely accepted as the main guide to the provision of preventive care in Australian general practice. The red book provides a comprehensive and concise set of recommendations for patients in general practice with additional information about tailoring risk and need. It provides the evidence base for which primary healthcare resources can be used efficiently and effectively while providing a rational basis to ensure the best use of time and resources in general practice. The 8th edition is available online in PDF format and is now also available through easily navigable HTML webpages.

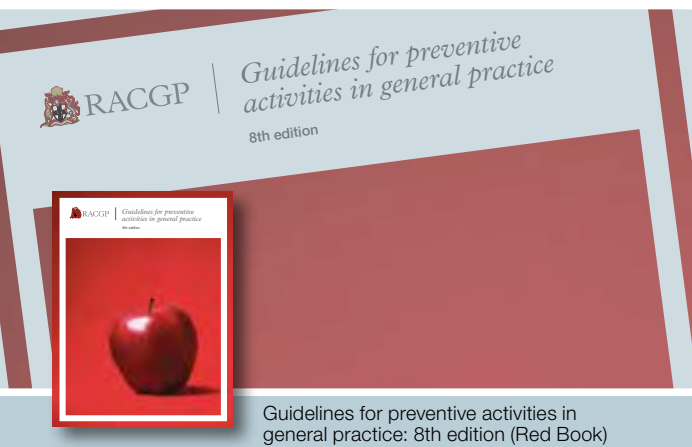
HANDI: Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions

Effective non-drug methods are less well known, promoted and used than pharmaceutical approaches. Advances in non-drug treatments in the past few decades

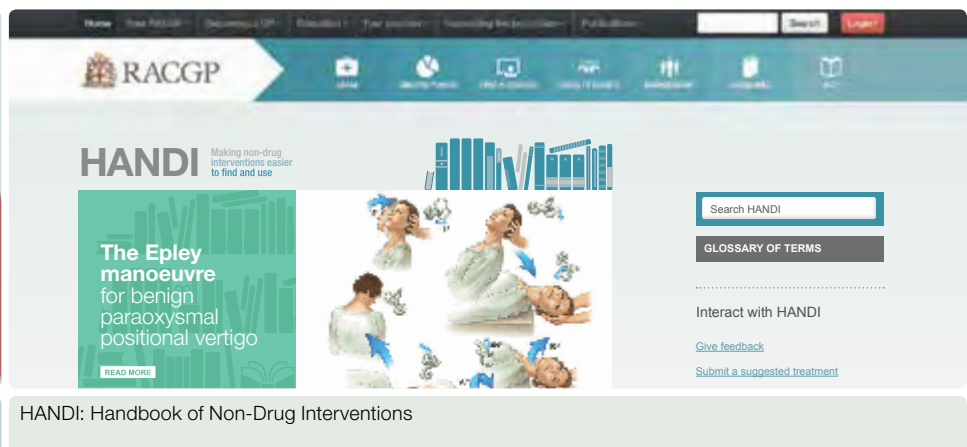
have been substantial and diverse: exercise for heart failure and COPD, the Epley manoeuvre for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, cognitive therapy for depression and 'bibliotherapy' (specific guided self-help books) just to name a few. Indeed, nearly half the thousands of clinical trials conducted each year are for non-drug treatments. The RACGP's new HANDI resource will make effective non-drug treatments more visible and easier to use. HANDI will be launched at GP13.

Clinical indicators

The College identified and developed a set of provisional indicators that deal exclusively with the safety and quality of clinical care provided by Australian general practices. The clinical indicators will be another voluntary tool in the quality improvement armoury to help practices monitor and improve the quality of their clinical services. In July 2012 the College invited members and stakeholders to provide feedback on its proposed 'dashboard set' of clinical indicators. The consultation document and survey were viewed over 1400 times and 570 people



Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice: 8th edition (Red Book)



HANDI: Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions

provided feedback. Overall, feedback on the indicators was very positive with the majority of respondents agreeing that the indicators would contribute to improving practice. The indicators are currently being piloted in practices and are planned to be available for use in early 2014.

Guide for quality health records

The RACGP Quality health records in Australian primary healthcare: A guide was developed by an inter-professional advisory group in consultation with colleagues across the Australian primary healthcare sector. Released in June 2013, the guide is designed to assist health professionals produce, manage and use high quality health records that are fit for a range of purposes including safe clinical decision-making, good communication with other health professionals, trustworthy partnerships with patients and effective continuity of patient care.

The guide describes a set of core principles and practical examples to illustrate particular principles in day-to-day clinical practice.

It provides a reference on the essential attributes of quality health records, as an increasing number of Australians register to participate in the national e-health record system. This publication will support the education of health professionals and the community on the significance and attributes of quality health records.

Representatives and Endorsements

College representation

The RACGP provides GP representatives to professional stakeholder groups in areas including health policy, guideline development and health service strategy. By providing representation to external organisations, the College ensures appropriately experienced GPs provide a professional voice to promote general practice and the priorities and overall objectives of the College. Over the past year 182 invitations were made to the College requesting representation for various groups, panels or committees.

The College is a leader among professional medical stakeholder groups, continuing to represent its members on a range of professional committees, including United General Practice Australia, the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges, the World Organization of Family Doctors and the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality Primary Care Committee. Thank you to the many GPs across Australia who have generously given their time to represent the College.

Endorsement

The College receives a large number of requests to endorse clinical guidelines and other products for use in general practice. One of the National Standing Committees assesses these resources in relation to their scope, content, rigour of development, clarity of presentation and applicability to general practice to determine a recommendation for endorsement. The majority of requests are received from not-for-profit health-related organisations to endorse guidelines. All endorsed guidelines are published on the RACGP website.



Primary Healthcare Research Conference speakers (L–R) Dr Evan Ackermann, Prof Bruce Guthrie, Prof Martin Fortin, Mr Mark Booth, A/Prof John Litt



RACGP Mental Health team at the General Practice Convention and Exhibition

Policy, Practice and Innovation key projects

Mental Health

The College continues to be involved in a number of programs in the mental health service sector, which is an important area for the Australian healthcare system.

The GP Psych Support service aims to provide GPs with access to quality patient management advice from a psychiatrist to assist them to manage their patient's mental health problems. The service currently employs a panel of eight psychiatrists who respond to GPs' enquiries within 24 hours via telephone, fax or email. This year, the College undertook a needs analysis of the service, which will guide us in our continual improvement of the service.

The General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) strives to ensure optimal mental health for the Australian population through ensuring high quality standards for GP education and training in mental health.

The College is a member of the Mental Health Professionals Association (MHPA), a collaborative group of four key professional groups involved in mental healthcare. In

2012–13, the College facilitated the work of the MHPA by providing the Chair and secretariat services for the association.

Peer-to-peer eHealth Education project

The aim of this project was to establish a network of GP clinical advocates to provide e-health leadership and education to their peers in general practice, encouraging participation in the national electronic (eHealth) record system.

An education package was developed in partnership with a taskforce of GPs who are leaders in e-health. In addition to a presentation and manuals, the education package featured five short videos which portray common clinical situations where the eHealth record might be used.

Twenty-eight GPs were recruited and trained to deliver the seminars, titled 'Using the eHealth record system to add value to clinical consultations'.

The RACGP GP Clinical Advocates and faculty staff travelled across the country delivering approximately 200 free seminars. Webinars were also run to reach those who could not attend a seminar in person.

Feedback from the seminars has been overwhelmingly positive. Over 4000 people have attended, representing more than 2000 general practices.

E-health

The RACGP e-health unit has advocated strongly ensuring the better alignment of e-health initiatives and incentives to the safe and high quality clinical workflow of general practice.

The College has consulted widely on the development of e-health initiatives such as the national electronic (eHealth) record system, the e-health child record, electronic prescribing, and national prescribing and dispensing notifications, secondary use of data, data breach legislation and privacy and security issues.

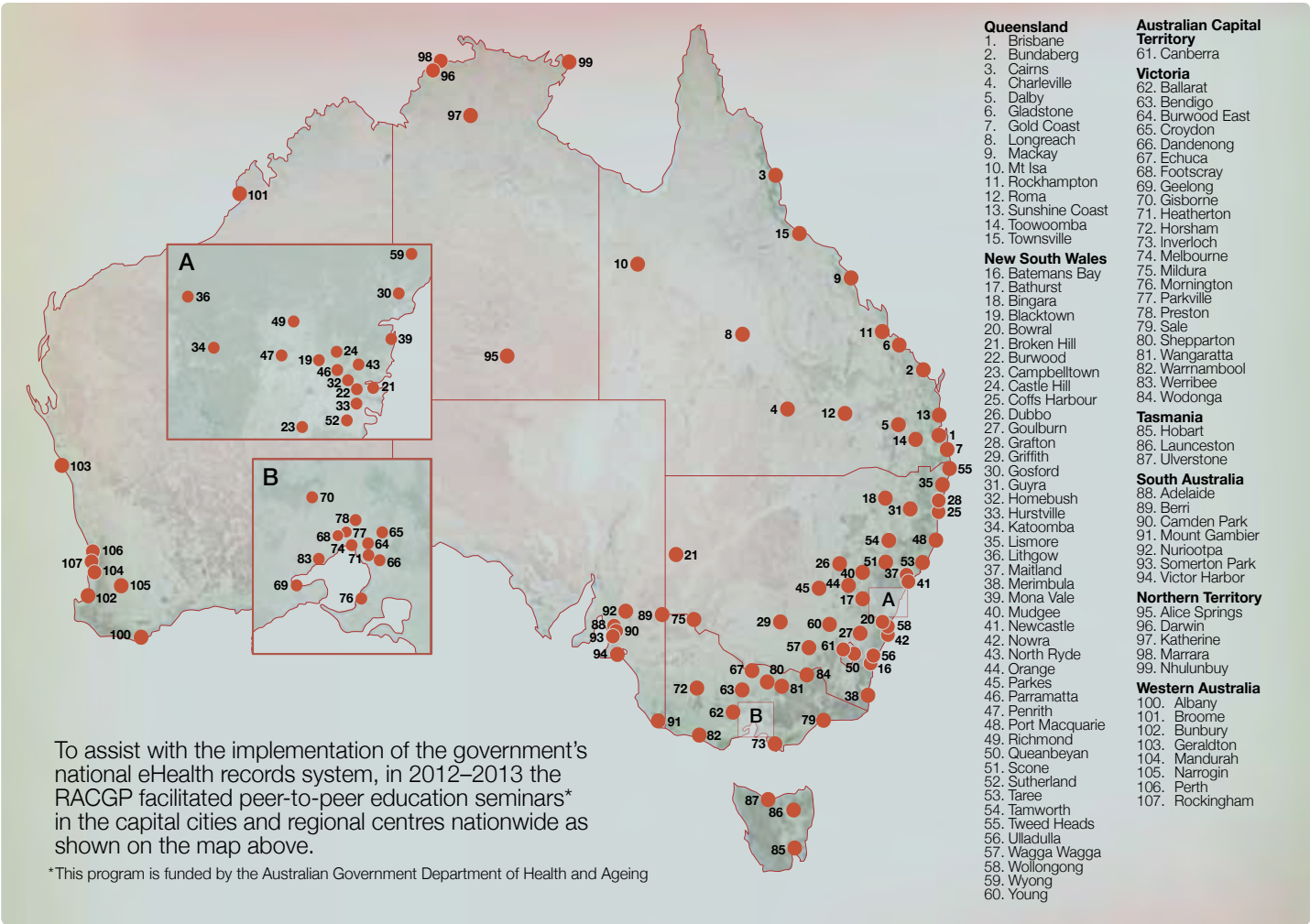
The RACGP is supportive of e-health systems that can securely and efficiently exchange data and significantly improve how clinical and administrative information is communicated between healthcare providers. The National Standing Committee–e-Health has provided general practice expertise in



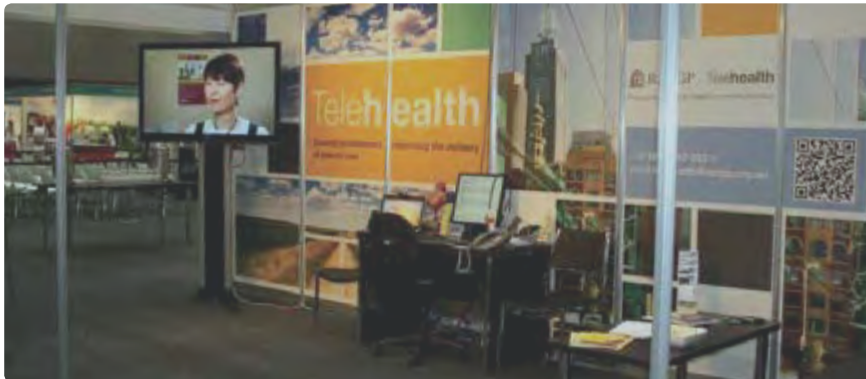
Dr John Bennett presenting at a QLD peer-to-peer eHealth education workshop



Peer-to-peer eHealth education workshop at the Gold Coast



RACGP Telehealth booth at the Clinical Update Weekend in Brisbane



RACGP Telehealth booth at GP12

Policy, Practice and Innovation key projects

developing College policy and recommendations so that e-health systems can unlock greater quality, safety and efficiency benefits.

Project Tele-nexus

The RACGP undertook a Department of Health and Ageing funded telehealth project (Project Tele-Nexus) to assist Australians living in rural and remote areas to have better access to specialist services through the use of video-consultations. The project delivered six activities including the production of GP/specialist guidelines on video consultations, an online telehealth provider directory, online education, a sponsored telehealth stream at GP12, a telehealth awareness campaign and the engagement of telehealth support officers to assist practices.

These activities contributed to the successful integration and longevity of telehealth in general practice and reduced the barriers to telehealth uptake by addressing issues relating to knowledge gaps, training and uncertainty in technology, organisational structure, reducing clinical risk and addressing specific cultural needs including the needs of isolated populations.

Stakeholder awareness is critical to the success of the telehealth initiative and over the course of the project the RACGP's awareness campaign resulted in over 795 000 'touch points' across various stakeholder audiences.

Policy and practice support

Advocacy

The RACGP advocates on behalf of general practitioners on a range of clinical, professional and business issues that influence the capacity of GPs and their practice staff to provide safe and high quality care.

Our advocacy work involves identifying and responding to concerns of the general practice profession on a range of issues that affect our members and their patients. The RACGP lobbies federal and state governments, and responds to government and departmental enquiries and proposals.

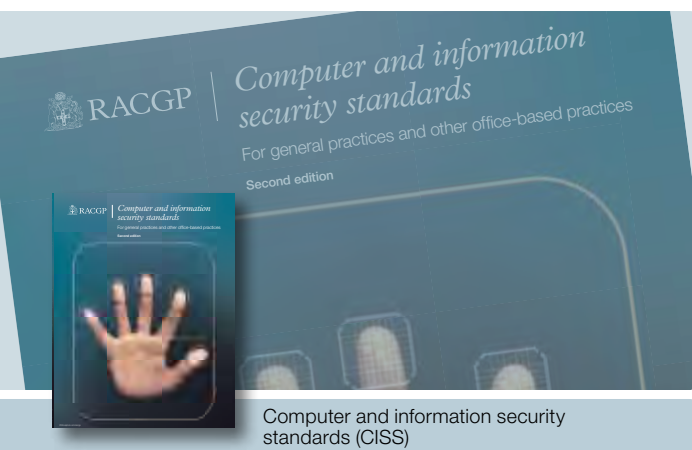
In the 2012–13 financial year, the College proactively advocated for and/or responded to a range of issues including:

- general practice as the 'medical home', including a proposed model and required funding

- funding for general practice, including changes to MBS items, Practice Incentives Program (PIP) funding, and after hours
- reduced red-tape for the MBS
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- IMGs
- general practice mental health funding
- chronic disease management in general practice
- prescribing
- aged care and dementia
- medical registration standards and requirements
- rural and remote medicine
- funding for pathology and diagnostic imaging
- electronic health records, including unique identifiers, information management, and security
- Health Workforce Australia
- Medicare Locals.

Practice support

The RACGP provides timely and accurate responses to enquiries as part of the range of services offered to members. Enquiries also assist with



the continual update of practice information and resources available to College members.

New resources for release in 2013 include updated modules for the RACGP General practice management Toolkit, employment contract templates for employees and independent contractors, MBS fee summary and various tools and information sheets.

Full of contemporary, relevant information on practice management, these publications will help GPs negotiate the increasingly complex business environment.

Pandemic and disaster planning and resources

The RACGP recognises the vital role that GPs and practice teams play in responding to emergencies and pandemics. With project funding provided by the Department of Health and Ageing, the RACGP developed *Managing Emergencies and Pandemics in General Practice: A Guide for Preparation, Response and Recovery*.

The guide has been designed to be an educational resource for general practice staff during emergency

preparations and response efforts, to assist general practices better prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and pandemics.

The guide can be accessed at no cost from the RACGP website

In 2013, the RACGP will also develop an emergency response planning tool, designed to complement the guide.

Standards

Standards for general practices (4th edition)

Since the launch of the *RACGP Standards for general practices* (4th edition) in October 2010, the RACGP has been working to support practices become accredited. The RACGP updated the Patient Feedback Guide in September 2012, and provides ongoing practice support in response to enquiries. In early 2013, the definition of a general practice for accreditation purposes was also refined to better support the process of accreditation.

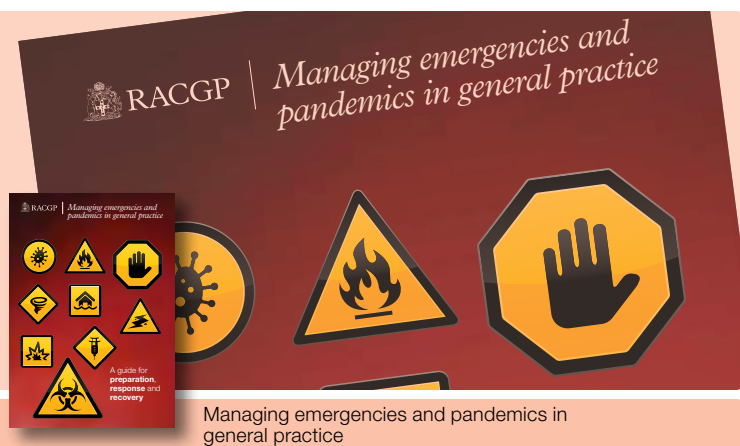
Interpretive guide to the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition)

The National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

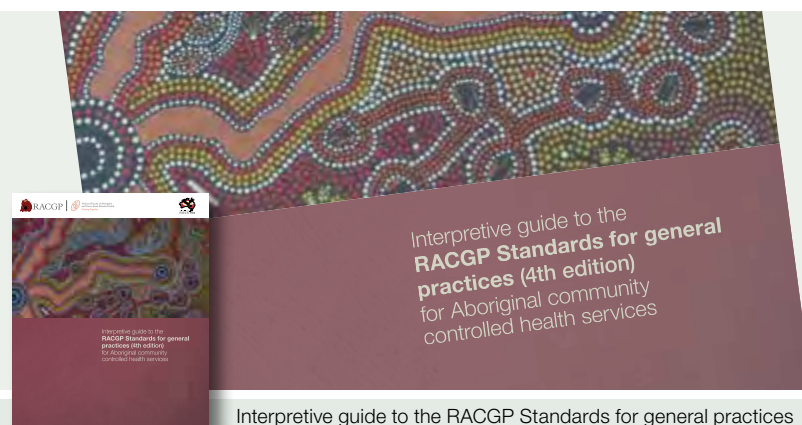
has led the development of the second edition of the *Interpretive guide to the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) for Aboriginal community controlled health services* with project funding from the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The guide is written for people working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to help interpret the RACGP standards in the context of their local health service. The guide is available from the RACGP website.

Computer and information security standards

The second edition of the RACGP Computer and information security standards (CISS) provides general practices with information that will raise awareness of contemporary security issues and help protect against the loss of data. The CISS project was funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and released in June 2013. The CISS provides general practice with a framework for evaluating risks, and guidance to improve practices' understanding of computer and information security.



Managing emergencies and pandemics in general practice



Interpretive guide to the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) for Aboriginal community controlled health services



Dr Gregory Stewart MBBS, Dip
RACOG, Grad Cert Addiction Studies

“Being involved in
aged care is part
of the continuum of
general practice. In
a small community
it can mean dealing
with four generations
of the same family.”



Awards and honours

RACGP awards and GP honours

Rose-Hunt Award 2012

Rose-Hunt Award

The Rose-Hunt Award is the RACGP's most prestigious award and recognises outstanding service in promoting the aims and objectives of the College.

Dr Beres Wenck, QLD

"Dr Wenck has been a passionate advocate for the College and for general practice throughout the duration of her esteemed medical career and is a most deserving winner of the 2012 Rose-Hunt Award."

Dr Liz Marles
2012–14 RACGP President

GP of the Year awards 2012

GP of the Year award

The GP of the Year Awards provide an opportunity to salute the dedication of GPs across Australia and to recognise excellence within general practice.

Dr Tony Lembke, NSW

"I am a strong believer in the concept of a 'medical home' whereby each patient receives ongoing, comprehensive patient care via the same GP or practice over time. This model, however, can only work if we have a highly trained, engaged general practice profession – which is why I place great importance on supporting the next generation of GPs as they come through the system."

Dr Tony Lembke
2012 RACGP
General Practitioner of the Year

General Practice Registrar of the Year

Dr Catherine Engelke, WA

"I feel blessed to be able to fulfil my childhood dream of becoming a doctor. I lacked the confidence initially and cannot believe how much my life has changed for the better since I have realised my potential."

Dr Catherine Engelke
2012 RACGP General Practice Registrar



Dr Beres Wenck



Dr Tony Lembke



Dr Catherine Engelke

General Practice Supervisor
of the Year

Dr Michael Connellan, VIC

National General Practice
of the Year

Prospect Medical Centre, TAS

Victoria General Practice
of the Year

Valley Primary Health Centre, VIC

New South Wales General Practice
of the Year

Hazelbrook General Practice, NSW

Monty Kent-Hughes Memorial Medal 2012

Monty Kent-Hughes Memorial Medal

The Monty Kent-Hughes Memorial Medal is awarded to candidates who achieve the highest Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) score within Australia.

Dr Penelope Foreman – 2012.1

Dr Fairlie Wayne – 2012.2

2012 Honour board

Life Fellowship

Dr Peter Joseph, SA

William Arnold Conolly Orator

Professor Clare Gerada, UK



Dr Michael Connellan



Dr John Ballantyne and Dr Frank Brunacci from Prospect Medical Centre

RACGP awards and GP honours

National Rural Faculty awards

The Brian Williams Award

The Brian Williams Award is the highest accolade awarded by the National Rural Faculty.

Dr Jenny May, NSW

“I am extremely pleased to be this year’s recipient of the award, although like all past and future recipients, I am just doing my bit to improve and sustain the rural and remote general practice profession and the health and wellbeing of their respective communities.”

Dr Jenny May, NSW

Rural General Practice Registrar of the Year Award

Rural General Practice Registrar of the Year Award recognises commitment to rural general practice and education.

Dr Angus McDonell, QLD

Medical Undergraduate Student Bursary

Medical Undergraduate Student Bursary is an essay prize awarded to a medical student who is a member of a rural health students’ club at an Australian university.

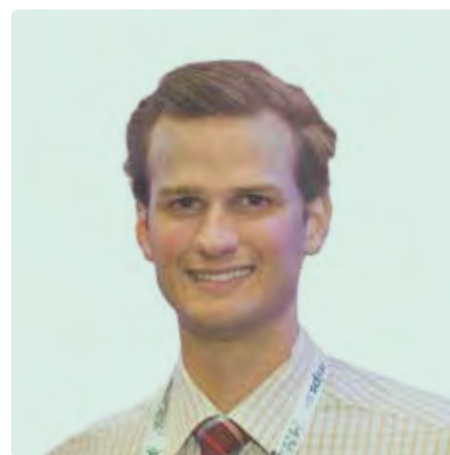
Thomas Boosey, QLD



Dr Jenny May



Dr Angus McDonell



Thomas Boosey

Australia Day Honours 2013

Officer (AO) in the General Division

Dr Ian William Marshall (RACGP Fellow and Life Member), The Gap, QLD

For significant service to the community of Queensland as a medical practitioner and through contributions to the cattle industry and rural education

Dr Mark Alexander Robson, Melton South, VIC

For service to community health, particularly through Melton Cancer Support Group

Dr Geza Ferencz Varasdi (Associate Member), VIC

For service to medicine as a general practitioner

Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

Dr Christopher Mitchell (RACGP Past President), Lennox Head, NSW

For significant service to medicine as a general practitioner through leadership roles in clinical practice, education and professional organisations

Emeritus Professor Robert Lynton Stable (RACGP Fellow), Clayfield, QLD

For significant service to the community of Queensland through innovative and strategic management in the areas of tertiary education and health

Dr Jane Zimmerman, Georgetown, TAS

For significant service to the community as an advocate and promoter of the status and health of women

Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division

Dr John Dennis Horton, Birchip, VIC

For service to medicine and to the community

Dr George Christopher Peponis (RACGP Member), Hunters Hill, NSW

For service to the sport of rugby league and to the community

Dr John Charles Schwarz (Associate Member) and his wife, Rosalie Gae Schwarz, Elderslie, NSW

For service to international relations, particularly through African AIDS Foundation

Dr Richard Joohuart Tan, Biloela, QLD

For service to medicine and to the community of Biloela

Dr Anthony Rodham Wilson, Tumut, NSW

For service to medicine and to the community of Tumut

Queen's Birthday Honours 2013

Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

Dr Brian David Bowring (RACGP Fellow), Georgetown, TAS

For significant service to medicine in rural and regional areas, and as a general practitioner

Dr Eric Charles Fairbank (RACGP Fellow), Warrnambool, VIC

For significant service to palliative care medicine in regional Victoria

Professor Peter Adrian Leggat (RACGP Member), Townsville, QLD

For significant service to medicine as a specialist in the fields of tropical and travel medicine

Dr Francis Xavier (Frank) Moloney, Orange, NSW

For significant service to medicine, particularly in the field of anaesthesia

Dr Jennifer Margaret Wray (RACGP Member), Narooma, NSW

For significant service to medicine in rural areas, particularly in the community of Narooma

Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division

Dr Patrick George O'Neill (RACGP Fellow), Earlville, QLD

For service to medicine in far north Queensland

Dr Ronald Dalkeith Scott (Associate Member), Boorowa, NSW

For service to the community of Boorowa as a general practitioner

Dr Clifford Francis Smith (RACGP Fellow and Life Member), Terrigal, NSW

For service to medicine, particularly in Papua New Guinea

Dr Arcot Sampath Kumar (Associate Member), Canowindra, NSW

For service to the community of Canowindra, particularly as a general practitioner

RACGP awards and GP honours

2012 RACGP research grants, scholarships and award winners

Chris Silagy Research Scholarship

Dr Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis

A survey of health professionals involved in insulin initiation to determine current and preferred models of care and the impact of this on collaboration.

Family Medical Care, Education and Research (FMCER) Grant

Associate Professor Clare Heal

The effect of sterile versus non-sterile clean boxed gloves – a randomised controlled trial.

Dr Wendy Brodribb

Postpartum care in general practice – what happens and can it be improved?

Dr Hilton Koppe

How effective is Web 2.0 Balint group participation for general practice registrars in regional Australia?

Rex Walpole Travelling Fellowship

Dr Geoffrey Spurling

Travel to Pacific Region Indigenous Doctor's Congress Conference (PRIDoC) 2012 in Alice Springs.

The HCF/RACGP Research Grant for a Pilot Study

Dr Parker Magin

Development of a clinical tool to assess anticholinergic medicines overload in general practice.

Professor Moyez Jiwa

An innovative educational intervention to support GPs during the treatment of breast cancer patients.

Dr John Dixon

Understanding the compounding co-morbidity, psychosocial impairment and disability of increasing levels of obesity in adults with type 2 diabetes.

The RACGP/Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) Indigenous Health Award

Dr John Furler

A review of service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians with entanglements with the justice system.

The RACGP PWH Grieve Memorial Award

Dr Susan Wearne

Distance supervisor of GP registrars.

The RACGP Integrative Medicine and Lifestyle Research Grant

Professor Mieke van Driel

Complementary medicines: Frequently asked questions and best evidence answers.

The RACGP/Independent Practitioner Network (IPN) Research Grant

Dr Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis

Professional roles and relationships: A study of insulin initiation in general practice.

The RACGP/Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) Research Grant

Dr Joel Rhee

Can death from chronic life-limiting illness be predicted in Australian general practice?

The RACGP/Osteoporosis Australia Bone Health Research Grant

Dr Tania Winzenberg

Vitamin D for correcting deficiency in adolescents: A general practice based RCT.

Alan Chancellor Award

Dr Jason Ong

Choices women make: Predictors of contraceptive use in women of reproductive age attending Family Planning Victoria.

Peter Mudge Medal

Associate Professor Clare Heal

Do perioperative antibiotics prevent wound infection for 'high risk' minor skin excision, a double blinded prospective randomised controlled trial.

Charles Bridges-Webb Memorial Award

Dr Benjamin Mitchell

Postpartum care in general practice: What are mother's views?

Iris and Edward Gawthorn Award

Dr Damien Savige

For the registrar in general practice who achieves the highest score on the cardiovascular and respiratory components of the Fellowship Exam over the 2012 calendar year.



Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.