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Hi everyone, I'm Dr Michael Wright, a GP, experienced health leader, health economist, and policy researcher. General practice is the foundation of Australia's health system, yet fair and equitable access to healthcare is under threat. We need a clear pathway to get general practice back to being the heart of our health system. We need the voice of general practice to be heard and for the RACGP to be this voice.

As a second-generation GP, I have spent my entire life witnessing the incredible value that general practice provides to our patients and the community. But the value of general practice is not being recognised by much of the health system, policy makers, or the government.

My work as a GP has seen me practice in urban and rural communities in NSW and Queensland and in the UK. I've supervised medical students, and GP registrars and for nearly ten years, I was a practice owner with my father, transforming a solo paper-based practice into a successful multidisciplinary GP-led clinic. Working in multiple settings showed me how to structure GP services to achieve the best health outcomes for patients, while creating fulfilling careers for us and our staff, and maintaining a financially sustainable health system.

Over the last decade I've combined my clinical expertise with leadership advocacy and research in order to realise and communicate the value of general practice.

I've been Chair of Central and Eastern Sydney primary health network for the last six years, and for the past 2.5 years, I've been the Chief Medical Officer for Avant Mutual, representing over 80,000 doctors and leading a division focused on advocacy education and research. In these roles, I've worked on identifying challenges for doctors, and advocating for solutions that support quality care, patient safety, and financial viability.

My passion has also led me to also be actively involved within the RACGP, where I am currently chairing the College's Funding and Health System Reform Committee and serve as Vice-Chair of the NSW/ACT Faculty Council. Whilst pursuing a Masters in Public Health and a PhD in Health Economics in order to deeply understand health system financing and further equip myself with the skills and language required to influence and negotiate effectively with funders and policy makers.

I believe my combination of skills and experience is what the RACGP and general practice as a profession need right now. **We need a president who understands clinical practice, has expertise in the economics of the health system, and can effectively communicate with funders and policymakers in terms they understand.** This is fundamental to driving the

outcomes that we want, raising understanding of the critical role of general practice and ensuring a well-funded strong general practice now and into the future.

If given the privilege of leading the RACGP, I will continue practicing as a GP but resign from my current Avant and PHN appointments so that I can dedicate myself to advocating for general practice and the RACGP's initiatives.

My Presidency would be underscored by the following 5 pillars:

Firstly, Putting General Practice back at the heart of Australia's Healthcare System. We need rebuild and reinforce general practice through financial and regulatory reform, advocacy, and negotiation with governments and policy makers.

Secondly, Securing the General Practice workforce of today and Developing the workforce of tomorrow. Collaborative policy solutions and college driven initiatives are required to secure the future primary care workforce in Australia.

Third, Creating a College for All Members. I recognise the unique diversity of RACGP members, and will ensure everyone feels included, heard and represented.

Fourthly, Shifting clinician focus from administration to patient care. We need to remove red tape, increase our efficiency and drive greater innovation through a quality and safety lens. And

Finally, Leading the future direction of the health profession. Clear advocacy and optimism around general practice as a profession and a career is needed. As well, general practice can lead initiatives to support doctor wellbeing, innovation and environmental sustainability.

My initial focus will be on reversing the funding cuts to general practice services. Last year alone, \$1 billion was taken out of MBS funding for GP services and this funding must be reinstated to reset the direction of our health system and secure general practice at its core. I will work to ensure that MBS is more flexible and supports team-based work and that we are not penalised for spending more time with our patients through a biased MBS.

I encourage all College members to vote in this election, as a strong turnout demonstrates our commitment to our health system and the changes we need to make to provide quality care for all Australians.

Throughout the campaign, I will share videos on my website, drmichaelwright.com.au, with recommendations for improving general practice and our health system and read more information about the pillars. You can read more by scanning the QR code and share your feedback and ideas on what needs to be done differently. I hope you consider voting for me. Thank you.