

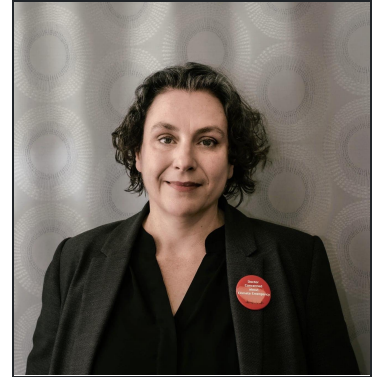
Dr Kate Wylie

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RACGP Presidential Candidate

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Acknowledging Kaurua Yerta



I'm standing for RACGP president because I'm proud to be a GP and I want a strong flourishing GP community.

I have a vision for general practice that addresses the challenges we face as a profession and fulfils our responsibilities as health professionals to treat the climate health emergency.

Proud to be a GP

I'm proud to be a member of a profession that strives every day to help the people of our country. GPs are the backbone of the Australian healthcare system. We save lives, we prevent disease and we support our patients in a multitude of ways. GPs make a difference. We have a unique skill-set that demonstrates a depth and breadth of knowledge that no other profession can lay claim to.

As college president I would stand tall with pride and dignity for the profession of General Practice.

Standing up for our profession

We face multiple challenges that are undermining the foundation of General Practice.

As small businesses, we have ever escalating costs and overheads and the issues around Medicare rebates and bulk-billing continue to escalate. Bulk billing practices are unsustainable and are closing across the country, affecting the livelihood of GPs and the health of the community.

There's not enough of us. We are looking at a shortfall of >11,000 GPs by 2032, even though the demand for GPs is projected to rise. This will place increasing pressure on the remaining workforce, exacerbating the risk of burnout.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to attract junior doctors to join our ranks. We cannot fill our training places and is that any wonder when GP registrars have poorer conditions and lower incomes than other specialties? This inequity needs to be addressed.

The rural doctor shortage is an ongoing disaster. The recent change to distribution priority areas will help shortfalls in the suburbs but it does mean even less doctors in the bush. We need to explore ways to attract doctors to rural medicine and I would look forward to working with the Rural Faculty to further this aim.

As college president I would work with our federal government to ensure the viability of our profession, advocating for support of general practice as responsible governmental action. I would call for an end to the slow thaw of Medicare, certainty around telehealth, improved conditions for registrars and incentives for rural practice, reinforcing the existing advocacy of the RACGP, the GPRA and the Rural Doctors Association.

I would work to ensure the interests of GPs when dealing with the medical board and AHPRA, ensuring our rights are upheld including the presumption of innocence and our right to confidentiality.

I would work to counter the culture of misinformation that is used to undermine our expertise, by ensuring we promote ourselves as highly qualified evidence based practitioners.

Standing up for our patients

Health care is a human right. The GP shortage means that the Australian people have poorer health care and we must ensure that people can access health care no matter their income or postcode.

Health care must be non-discriminatory. A persons gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation should not interfere with their health care. People with disabilities must have barriers to their care addressed.

First Nations people still have poorer health outcomes than the rest of the population and we must continue to work to remedy this situation. I have a long interest in ATSI health and have run Close the Gap days and undertaken an ATSI audit at work.

As college president I would work to ensure that general practice is inclusive and strives for equity for all people.

Climate Action

The climate crisis is an immense global problem that requires the concerted action of governments, industry, professional groups and individuals to solve.

It is an urgent problem. The IPCC has called a Code Red for humanity and tells us that emissions must peak within the next three years to prevent catastrophic global warming.

It is the greatest health problem of our time and it is affecting human health now in Australia and across the globe.

As health practitioners, climate change is our problem and we need to acknowledge it, face it and prepare.

The RACGP declared a climate health emergency in 2019, joining the AMA, Doctors for the Environment Australia, the RACP and others, to call for urgent action to address climate change on health grounds. In 2021 the RACGP adopted a 2040 zero emission target and an interim reduction target of 80% by 2030.

We must recognise that every problem we have is being exacerbated by climate change and to not address the climate health emergency would be a failure of our duty of care.

We already encounter the effects of climate change in our work. We are seeing the health impacts of heat waves, of fires and smoke, of devastating floods and extreme weather events. We are seeing the impacts of climate change on mental health, on pregnancy and on infectious disease.

We are seeing the impact on infrastructure and how that disrupts our ability to provide health care. The devastating floods along the east coast have seen GP practices destroyed, towns without drinking water, food shortages and an increased risk of water borne infections. This last summer, the west coast experienced heat waves and fires with loss of life and livelihoods.

Climate change exacerbates existing health inequalities, with people of social disadvantage being most at risk of harm.

Junior doctors and medical students are extremely concerned about climate change. We must demonstrate to them that we are addressing the climate crisis if we want them to join us.

Climate change is exacerbating the rural doctor shortage, with doctors demonstrated to be leaving rural Northern Territory because of extreme heat.

It is absolutely our core business to do everything we can to protect human health from the climate health emergency.

As college president I would engage in a college wide climate action plan, encompassing the following:-

1. Political advocacy for mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies that protect human health from climate harms. This means engaging with all levels of government about the need to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change, on health grounds.
2. Collaboration with the AMA and other medical colleges to green our industry. Health care is responsible for 7% of our country's carbon footprint, mostly from hospitals and pharmaceuticals. General practice has a vital role to play to reduce these emissions.
3. Educate GPs about climate change causes, health risks and consequences, using the existing RACGP education channels and coordinating with the PHNs.
4. Support GPs to green their practices, with an auditing tool and associated information about reducing the carbon footprint of our businesses. Our moral imperative to do no harm mandates that we do this, and let's remember that climate solutions make good economic sense and save us money.
5. Enable GPs to communicate with our communities about how climate change impacts on their lives and their health and the urgent need for climate action.

As GPs we have a responsibility to fully understand the health effects of climate change and an opportunity to lead our communities in climate action.

I have a vision for general practice.

My vision sees General Practice acknowledged as the foundation of our health care system and receiving the governmental support that we need to protect the health of the Australian people.

As president, I would work with our federal government to ensure the ongoing success of our profession. I would advocate with strength and integrity knowing that we save our government money and that a well funded and well resourced general practice workforce keeps people well and out of hospital. General practice has a lower carbon footprint than the hospital system, so supporting us is a win for our patients, a win for the economy and a win for our country's carbon budget.

My vision sees a GP community that stands tall and with dignity, demanding that we are treated with the respect we deserve.

A college I lead would show pride in the profession of general practice. It would talk us up and highlight our strengths to the rest of the medical profession, increasing the attractiveness of a career in general practice. We have the best job in the world. It is a privilege to be a GP and we need to explain this to medical students and junior doctors so that they want to join us.

My vision sees a general practice community that acknowledges and addresses climate change, that understands the health impacts and that works to reduce its own carbon footprint. We can show leadership and demonstrate that as health professionals we are doing everything in our power to protect human health in the face of the climate emergency.

A college I lead would work in partnership with the other medical colleges to create a climate ready and climate friendly Australian healthcare system, building upon the work that the RACGP, the AMA, and other colleges have already achieved in this area.

I have the necessary skill set to be college president.

I have extensive experience in leadership and governance. I currently chair the RACGP's Climate and Environmental Medicine Specific Interest Group and am on the board of Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA). As such I have worked closely with executives and staff and appreciate the challenges and opportunities this brings.

I am a successful political advocate, engaging and negotiating with politicians of all persuasions. I am an accomplished public speaker and have considerable media experience. I have been interviewed on the radio, spoken on podcasts and delivered keynote addresses at conferences.

As a member of DEAs Campaigning Committee I facilitated a candidate forum at the recent federal election, with the candidates from the ALP, the Liberal party, the Greens and an independent attending. The now Labor member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost states that I "managed what can be a heated engagement during an election campaign in a manner that was safe and respectful for all involved". See <https://www.drkatewylie.com.au/testimonials1>

I am committed to medical education. I facilitate DEAs AfterHours webinar series and have delivered multiple presentations and webinars. I have completed Education Activity Representative training with the college and run an EBM journal club on pollution. I have supervised medical students and been employed as a clinical skills and case based learning tutor.

And of course, I am a GP with more than 15 years of clinical experience, who lives and breathes general practice and who works tirelessly for my patients and their needs.

I ask that you vote for me for college president.

I will listen to you, the membership and I will seek your expert opinion and advice.

I will continue the excellent advocacy work that our current president, Adjunct Prof Karen Price, is doing on our behalf. I would work with her, the board and the executive to ensure continuity.

I will give it my all and work diligently to represent the needs of general practitioners and the people of Australia whom we all serve.

For more information about me and my vision please have a look at my website:

www.drkatewylie.com.au

I will be holding zoom meetings during the election campaign so that members can meet me and so I can hear your concerns.

Wednesday Evenings: 7:30 ACST: [Zoom registration link](#)

Saturday Mornings: 10:30 ACST: [Zoom registration link2](#)

Thank you

Vote 1 Dr Kate Wylie