ADVERTISEMENT

The results are in – you have entrusted me with the RACGP Presidency. The quest for a sustainable future for General Practice has started.

I am uniquely placed– as GP, practice owner, supervisor, medical educator (GPiT and Medical students), primary care researcher and RACGP Board director to rapidly achieve wins for members.

I have the governance skills needed and good working relationships with key stakeholders and partners such as Health Minister, Greg Hunt.

The first 100 days are crucial in setting the tone of my Leadership – a style which will be different from Harry but complementary to what he has already achieved in the advocacy space– crucial for achieving wins for GP during times of disruption and change.

What will success in two years look like?

- General practice positioned at centre of health agenda for Government and community
- Sign off on increased Flexible funding options that ensure sustainability for General Practice
- General practice offering a more attractive career package, with increased numbers of Registrars
- Collaboration with other healthcare stakeholders placing "GP" firmly at the centre of primary care
- Strategically focussed RACGP Board proactive not reactive
- Financially viable College with 98% retention of GP memberships
- Increased numbers of women engaged with leadership roles

So, what's on the calendar over the next 100 days?

Day 1

• Speak with CEO, Chair Board, and Acting President to establish communications strategy and meeting schedule

• Speak with Minister for Health and Shadow Minister for Health and schedule face-toface meetings (when possible) or telcos

• Schedule meeting with Prime Minister and Opposition Leader

Week 1

• National update review of COVID-19 and how it is affecting GPs and patients – issues such as GP sustainability in pandemic, PPE, telehealth, mental health, aged care, patient access, and usual care

• Media blitz to announce new RACGP leadership team and assert the aim to be leading health advocate in Australia – strong policy, ideas and solutions backed by the strength of our 40,000+ strong membership

• Organise to speak to RACGP Board members individually

• Meet up with Roald Versteeg and Media Team (John Ronan and Ally Francis) to arrange schedule and media opportunities

- Speak with Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Aged Care
- Review current Strategic Plan with CEO and Chair

First Month

• Begin a listening tour to meet with all Faculties and Members to hear from them directly

• Briefing with RACGP Advocacy team on agreed framework and current status around meetings with Health Minister, other Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and MPs, and

- 1. Primary care reform steering group Ten Year Primary Health Care Plan and Telehealth
- 2. Mental Health Vision 20/30 taskforce
- 3. Preventive health taskforce

• Briefing with RACGP Advocacy team and Rural Faculty around agreed framework and current status and meetings with Minister for Rural Affairs and Rural Commissioner for Rural Health Strategy and Rural Generalism program

• Briefing on Agreed framework with RACGP Education Team and meetings with Department of Health for successful transition of the AGPT scheme across to RACGP

• Briefing with CIC and Education / Assessment team regarding Assessment process for the current cohort of GPiT

• Attend first Board meeting as President Elect – scheduled session for information gathering and agreement regarding Advocacy program and key issues to be prioritised

• Attend all scheduled meetings with Health Minister and Department of Health regarding issues relating to Primary Care / Funding

Three Months

Monthly Board meetings ensuring adequate input from all Board members for upcoming meetings.

Regular communication strategy implemented for Members.

National spotlight on both the RACGP and GP brands.

Policy wins to ensure sustainability of general practice, promotion of GPs, and better access to GP-led quality primary heal care for all Australians.