

## 2022 RACGP Presidential Nomination

### Adjunct Professor Brad Murphy

I acknowledge the traditional lands of our First Nations people, Our Elders past present and emerging and my proud Kamilaroi ancestry

My name is Brad Murphy and I have a long and strong history with the RACGP and with your vote we can make history in electing the **first** First Nations President not only to the largest Medical College in Australia but **ANY** Australian Medical College.

I have a history of establishing relationships and through interconnectedness taking key strategic stakeholders on a journey to success in achieving positive health care outcomes through advocacy and legislative change. I have had a National Parliamentary Pass since my medical school days and have learned how to use this in developing relationships within the hallowed halls to achieve many significant outcomes within the Indigenous and Rural Health sector.

This advocacy has influenced mainstream healthcare, and the achievements realised for Indigenous Australians have also had a direct influence in outcomes and access in the rural and veteran health care sector. I am ready to continue this work ensuring we drive the healthcare agenda for ALL Australians through our profession and working to reinforce and address critical and crucial concerns towards sustainable general practice, workforce shortages and the health needs of our communities.

Under the vigilant watch of our present President, Adj Professor Karen Price, there has been much advocacy and success in negotiating with Federal and State governments, various health departments and the wider health care sector to support not just general practice but in fact the entire health care system that results in quality care for our communities. Our profession, and indeed the global community has faced so many challenges through the COVID-19 pandemic. This has seen unprecedented circumstances that have changed the world as we know it and also the structure of general practice. I am immensely proud to be a part of a profession that has committed to strong leadership and advocacy for our profession, our patients and our communities through these times. The ability of GP's and our teams to embrace these most arduous and constantly changing responses to a situation that is a long way from being over. Our teams are exhausted and yet they keep showing up sharing the passion and pride in caring for our communities. This is a fight in which we are all involved. I believe we should find ways to embrace, celebrate and promote these relationships through models that make a career not just as a GP, but **IN** general practice, something that is rewarding and exciting to be part of. I would take the opportunity of reinforcing relationships with our key allies in general practice such as AAPM and APNA to explore ways we might work collaboratively for the greater good of our profession and communities.

Karen and the RACGP team have demonstrated strong, committed and continued leadership through these most difficult times, and I commit to continuing this

leadership moving forward, ensuring our profession, our College and communities prosper.

State governments realise like no time ever before, the critical and essential role general practice plays in keeping them functioning. With COVID-19 numbers as high as they have ever been, simply not talking about it doesn't make the problem go away. General Practice has been distracted from our core business strategies whilst attending to the needs of our patients individually and communities as a collective, delivering the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations and now responding to the timely management of antiviral therapies – on the background of our routine patient scheduling and whilst attempting to run our businesses amidst the highest CPI increases in recent history and with eroded funding of the healthcare delivery framework and patient care rebates. A shift to alternate billing models is understandable, indeed absolutely necessary, for the viability of our businesses but without a focussed commitment by government, we face threatening the significant advances we have made caring for indigenous and other vulnerable patients.

As a united front we need to engage in the battle in regards the North Queensland Pharmacy "Experiment" as critical business. Conducting these trials in some of our most vulnerable communities without appropriate community consultation is inappropriate and a cultural insult. This needs to be evidenced based and I applaud all the efforts in supporting the resilience of the North Queensland Doctors in standing up for what they know and believe to be true. I am however, concerned that if we do not embrace the tyranny of the real threats to workforce, especially in our rural and remote locations, governments will be forced to explore alternate care delivery options in any case! We are at a precipice and we need to have a coordinated response together with our partners in general practice and especially our consumer advocacy groups and our patients one on one. We need to revive the passion and desire to embrace a career in general practice and demonstrate the rewards of a career throughout all aspects and geographical locations available to general practitioners.

### ***Areas that I would focus on throughout my Presidency***

#### **Membership engagement**

Optimising methods of communicating with and seeking feedback from membership is critical for us as a member focussed organisation. ***Listen to, and execute the strategies discussed moving forward***

Many of our members do not realise the incredible investment that occurs in the education and standards area of the RACGP and more recently in the more focussed advocacy areas. We need to communicate with the membership so they know of the real value of their membership dollar. I want to restore the passion and pride of being a member of the largest medical college in Australia and the relevance of real investment into the healthcare of our great nation.

As a matter of priority, ensuring we have peer support programs and processes for members to reach out to the college for guidance and support through the many challenges we face throughout our careers, in our unique geographical locations and service models and dealing with a myriad of new and evolving challenges. This includes a focus on support for our IMG members who often find themselves in remote locations, poorly resourced and supported, caring for our most vulnerable communities with unreal expectations upon their performance. I believe attention to establishing these programs and resources are core to nurturing the sense of belonging and a welcoming nature of the College – building upon the combat tenant of “leaving no man behind”!

### **Consumer engagement**

Collaborating with other GP organisations such as ACRRM, RDAA and AMA is crucial to our united voice and efforts for our profession. Working with our allies in the area of the practice team such as AAPM, APNA as well as allied health representative bodies is important for a unified approach to addressing the service delivery and sustainability of primary care. I especially believe we need to engage consumer advocacy organisations and take them on a journey of discovery about the value, indeed the core value inherent in the relationship a patient, family and community have with their GPs and team to optimise health care and respond to acute presentations with the relationship and patient knowledge already established – Cradle to Grave care.

### **Sustainable and rewarding career in general practice**

This includes urgent attention to focussed and meaningful funding investment for GP’s, especially as we engage in the ongoing response to COVID-19. We and our teams are approaching exhaustion and continue to be immersed in the ongoing frustration, fear and confusion of our patients whilst we go on the journey with the newly established **Stengthening Medicare Taskforce** – lest we perish whilst awaiting the outcome

Funding for general practice – over and above attention to patient rebates  
Funding our business and team

**Nurses** – we are competing with state governments who are able to remunerate higher than us to address their workforce shortages – we face decimation losing our key staff and clinical support networks

**Practice management** – funding incentives to engage and build the skills to help make general practice both viable and sustainable

**Employment and retention strategies for the GP workforce team** – such as traineeships, funded training and development to grow and support the team

Immediate attention to the Payroll tax threat

Stop the Policy on the run that has become our reality. Establishing meaningful and respectful engagement and relationship with government at all levels to promote real consultation. We need to ensure the resources for announcements and changes are in place to equip GP's and our teams to embrace the changing face of healthcare

Ambulance service engagement to review opportunities of collaboration and address untruths in the general practice contribution to "ramping"

Commitment to the success of the **Profession Led Training** transition schedule to roll out in February 2023. Acknowledging the immense investment by so many in developing and negotiating in this space to bring about our state of readiness to deploy

### **Clear strategies for interventions and addressing the critical Workforce shortage**

Engage with and promote the passion of general practice to high schools and medical schools – take them on a journey early – look at mentoring options etc

Review of the impact of recent DPA changes to the rural and remote workforce.

Review of potential for reintroduction of scholarships such as the JFSS

Models such as JCU that have proven successful at recruiting and retaining graduates in the rural and remote sector

Building upon models such as CQU/UQ Regional Medical Pathway through medicine allowing training in regional areas ensuring they leave with great stories of success and passion about their time R&R promoting the rewards of careers in these locations

Acknowledge new graduates have very different expectations for their careers desiring opportunities to explore their outside interests and family not just career/profession of GP

Acknowledging special interest groups and allowing growth in this area

Education and resourcing for:

**Indigenous Health**

**Veteran health**

**Disaster planning and response**

## **LGBTIQ+ health support and education**

During my membership of the RACGP I have demonstrated unique and continued leadership

I was the Founding Chair of both the inaugural NSCAH and in founding the NFATSIH, and joined the RACGP Council - all as a registrar.

I was instrumental in the RACGP College gown incorporating the artwork celebrating the traditional lands of First Nations people on which we practice our art of medicine and the colourful sashes that acknowledge our Indigenous Fellows.

I served 6 years on RACGP Council, I am Provost for RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Co-Chair of RACGP Queensland

I am a leader within veterans' affairs having served on the Prime Ministers Advisory Council on Veteran Mental Health and continue on the National Advisory Council for Open Arms

We were awarded the RACGP National Practice of the Year in 2019

In 2020 I was the proud recipient of the highest accolade awarded by the RACGP - the Rose Hunt Medal and this year received National recognition with an OAM.

I am yet to finish high school, but I have Professorial appointments at three universities, where I actively engage the training of our future medical workforce

I am a Practice owner, Supervisor and an advocate for patients and community

I have served my country in the military and as a frontline intensive care paramedic

I have a proven track record in navigating the political environment and getting results, I have had a parliamentary pass since medical school – I have a seat at the table and shown I know how to use it!

The RACGP has long been THE leader in Indigenous health and with your support we would have the FIRST First Nations President of ANY medical college in Australia. I come from a strong ancestry of warriors and there is no time like the present that the RACGP needs a warrior - a proven leader...

A vote for me will see us on this journey together to make history, I am ready to hit the ground running, totally committed to the 24/7 aspects of representing OUR College.

Yaluu!