

2024 Annual General Meeting

Minutes and outcomes of resolutions

67th Annual General Meeting The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Ltd
100 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, VIC, 3002
ACN 000 223 807

Thursday 21 November 2024, 4.00pm (AWST), Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre and via zoom webinar

ITEM 1: Welcome and thank you to the 66th Board

The President, Dr Nicole Higgins welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Dr Higgins acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waterways in which attendees were joining the meeting from.

Dr Higgins noted the members of the Board in attendance at the AGM.

ITEM 2: Meeting proceeding and to note the minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2023.

The Chair noted the three principles of the AGM being:

1. To present the activities and financial accounts of the RACGP for the 2023–2024 financial year.
2. To vote on 2 ordinary resolutions; and
3. To give members the opportunity to ask questions about any of the resolutions put forth for a vote.

The Chair noted that the minutes of the 23 November 2023 have been provided to members on the AGM website.

ITEM 3: Chair's report

The Chair's report was provided by Dr Lara Roeske, with key items summarised as follows:

- Dr Roeske is retiring at the conclusion of the AGM having served six years as Director and two years as Board Chair.

- The 2023–2024 financial year was a period of consolidation with operations returning to normal after three years impacted by the pandemic.
- Georgina van de Water was appointed Chief Executive Officer in March 2024 and has prioritised achieving a whole of organisation alignment and collaborative leadership to deliver better member experiences and operational efficiencies.
- An inaugural meeting of the RACGP and ACRRM Boards was held at the WONCA23 World Conference. There is a commitment between the Colleges to hold an annual gathering of the Board from 2025 onwards.
- A National International Medical Graduate Committee was established to better support doctors undergoing assessment through the RACGP and as Fellows.
- The RACGP Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan launched in May 2024, and signifies the RACGP's vision for reconciliation as an organisation and profession free from racism, where all GPs provide culturally safe healthcare.
- The RACGP underwent Australian Medical Council reaccreditation in 2024, with the final report due to be provided in January 2025.
- RACGP membership reached 50,000 for the first time and advocacy and policy initiatives grew from strength to strength.
- A monthly Board email commenced in February and it's something the Board hopes will encourage members to engage with the work that is being done to ensure a strong and sustainable GP profession.

ITEM 4: Finance report

Scott King, Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee introduced the finance report, summarised as follows:

- The College achieved full financial recovery from the prior years' underlying deficit, one year earlier than planned.
- The consolidated surplus of \$19.7m contained one-off gains of \$14.4m, with an underlying operating surplus of \$5.3M achieved.
- As part of a 3-year plan to return the College to surplus, management has implemented a future financial sustainability plan underpinned by strong cost control measures and improved budget disciplines.
- The RACGP will continue to focus on cost control and efficiencies, while increasing revenue to ensure the cash reserves remain strong to counter any unforeseen events and ensure appropriate levels are available to reinvest in core objectives, systems and processes.

Pranay Lodhiya, Chief Financial Officer provided a detailed finance report, summarised as follows:

- One-off gains reported in the accounts included:
 - \$4.6m surplus from the P&L accounting treatment of AGPT capital fitouts, with these surpluses being offset in future years as the amortisation and depreciation is incurred.
 - \$3.0m from legal settlements that are subject to legal professional privilege and confidential terms.
 - \$5.1m in reduced operating and strategic project delivery expenditure costs.
 - \$1.0m profit from the successful delivery of the WONCA Conference, and
 - \$0.7m in investment returns.
- The cash balance in FY24 grew significantly by \$33.4m, noting much of this was held as cash in advance to deliver the GP training program.
- Cost control actions limited the operating expenditure increase to \$2.9m.
- Further reserve funds have been established to:
 - Build re-investment capability for one off investments.
 - Build returns from charitable donations to utilise for research grants and awards.
 - Establish a rainy-day fund for unexpected events.

ITEM 5: President's report

The President's report was provided by Dr Nicole Higgins, with key items summarised as follows:

- Supported by the Executive team, the Board has steered the RACGP through difficult times to a place of strength over the past year.
- A cultural and financial transformation has seen the financial position improve significantly and GP training has been successfully integrated, tripling the workforce and financial complexity.
- The RACGP is the first specialist medical College to launch an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural and Health Training Framework.
- With the release of the 2024–25 Advocacy Plan, the RACGP was positioned as a leading voice in healthcare.
- The GP Advocate Network was launched which is growing relationships with elected representatives to influence policy change.
- General practice is the solution to the healthcare crisis and a focus on advocacy for funding has been strong. The media voice has grown consistently and with influence and the RACGP has featured in over 10,000 media stories.
- Providing a nationally consistent, regional context and locally delivered services has embodied the RACGP's values and equipped the College to carry forward and strengthened the role of the Faculties.
- 4 out of 5 rural GPs belong with the RACGP.
- GP training is oversubscribed for 2025 and RACGP is advocating to the government to increase funding.

ITEM 6: Ordinary Resolutions

The following ordinary resolutions were put forth:

Ordinary Resolution 6.1: Directors' remuneration for Financial Year 2026

To consider and if thought fit, pass the motion as an ordinary resolution, requiring 50% of those in favour of the item:

'The total amount available to remunerate directors is \$896,000, including superannuation for the 2025–26 financial year (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026), but excluding the President's remuneration.'

Ordinary Resolution 6.2: President's remuneration

To consider and if thought fit, pass the motion as an ordinary resolution, requiring 50% of those in favour of the item:

'The total amount available to remunerate the RACGP President in performing the constitutional duties of the President is \$338,474 including superannuation, effective from the 2024 AGM to the 2025 AGM.'

ITEM 7: Memorial minute

The Chair respectfully acknowledged those RACGP members who had passed away since the last annual general meeting and their dedicated service to the health of the Australian public and involvement in the RACGP was acknowledged.

ITEM 8: CEO address

The CEO's report was provided by Georgina van de Water, with key items summarised as follows:

- Appreciation and thanks were extended to RACGP members for their involvement with the College, especially those that volunteer their time to contribute to the College's activities, including GP training, writing reviews, participating on committees and Faculty Councils and advocating for the profession and their patients.

- The Executive team and over 1300 RACGP staff members around Australia were acknowledged for the work they do to support members and deliver the ambitious outcomes the College strives to achieve.
- The past year has seen the College strengthen advocacy, reported renewed satisfaction amongst many GPs in training, an improved financial position, and increased engagement with members.
- This year the first Advocacy Plan was launched, and a network of GP advocates is being developed to make sure representatives understand the issues facing GPs and patients in their electorates and appreciate the importance of GPs to the wellbeing of their communities.
- In 2025, the College will be positioned for the future through a five-year strategic plan, ensuring a strong profession that keeps Australia by:
 - further increasing advocacy to drive change
 - improving the members' experience when they interact with the College
 - ensuring systems and processes serve members
 - supporting Fellow-led research, and
 - enhancing the quality of our programs to meet future workforce needs.

ITEM 9: To declare the outcomes of the resolutions put to the AGM

The Chair declared the results of voting on the resolutions as provided by the appointed Returning Officer from OGL group to the Company Secretary. The results were announced as follows:

Ordinary Resolution 6.1 – Approved

YES: 1422 (66.3%)
NO: 722 (33.7%)
Total votes: 2144

Ordinary Resolution 6.2 – Approved

YES: 1506 (71.7%)
NO: 595 (28.3%)
Total votes: 2101

ITEM 10: Welcome to the 67th Board members

The Chair acknowledged that herself and Dr Lara Roeske are retiring at the conclusion of the AGM, having served their maximum terms. The Chair welcomed Dr Michael Wright as President and Dr Jeremy Hudson as Chair, RACGP Specific Interests whose terms commence at the close of the AGM.

ITEM 11: Presentation – President-Elect

The Chair welcomed Dr Michael Wright to the stage for the official transfer of the Presidential Chains.

Dr Wright provided a President-Elect presentation summarised as follows:

- Proudly served the RACGP for several years including as Deputy Chair of the NSW&ACT Faculty Council and as Chair of the RACGP Expert Committee for Funding and Health System Reform as well as Chair of the working group reviewing 'Our Vision for General Practice.'
- Is a second-generation GP and has a varied background in practice from being a GP registrar, contractor, a salaried GP, a GP Supervisor and a practice owner. As President, a key focus will be to show the value of General Practice to the broader community and policy makers.
- Dr Wright acknowledged the work that Dr Higgins has achieved throughout her Presidency.

- As President, Dr Wright will continue to build on Dr Higgins' work, to continue to unite the GP profession, advocate to improve general practice funding, boost the GP workforce and embrace technology and change so that patient care always comes first and so patients have access to a GP that knows them.
- There are still challenging times ahead, with chronic MBS underfunding, unproven models of primary care emerging that are putting the future of general practice at risk. Without general practice, the health system will become increasingly fragmented and more costly.
- Advocacy for GPs and practice teams will be key and with the upcoming federal election, letting government and politicians know that there is no substitute for the quality care that a patient receives from their GP.

The Chair welcomed Dr Michael Wright as RACGP President and Faculty Chair board director Dr Jeremy Hudson as Chair, RACGP Specific Interests.

It was noted that in line with the RACGP's Constitution, the Board would meet following the AGM to appoint the positions for Chair of the Board and Vice-President.

Dr Nicole Higgins thanked members for attending and declared the AGM official proceedings closed at 5.27pm (AWST).

Signed by the Board Chair as a correct record of the meeting:



Dr Siân Goodson

Date: 12 December 2024.