

Dr. Vanessa Matabang

Candidate Statement

Navigating my unique path in general practice has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career. As a Specialist General Practitioner, senior medical educator and advisor, I have developed a strong commitment to clinical standards, education and sustainable practice, while supporting our profession and the communities we serve.

With more than 15 years' experience in medicine, complemented by my extensive hospital experience and former background as a Registered Nurse, I have engaged with our health system from different perspectives and built formative relationships. This has given me a genuine appreciation of the central role general practice plays in delivering connected, patient-centred care, particularly at a time when fragmentation is a real risk and the healthcare landscape continues to change rapidly.

As RACGP WA Core Education Head of Training and Registrar Wellbeing Consultant, and through my work on key advisory and expert panels, I have had the privilege of supporting doctors, contributing to education and quality improvement, and advocating for the GP voice. I am also an active RACGP Future Leaders Program 2026 participant. These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong advocacy starts with genuinely listening to understand, followed by thoughtful and purposeful action.

I recognise the pressures facing general practice. Increasing complexity, workforce challenges and the demands of modern practice can make it difficult to look beyond the immediate. Yet we need to build a profession where GPs continue to thrive in sustainable careers, with wellbeing recognised as fundamental to our future.

I would bring a considered and balanced perspective to Western Australia's Faculty Council, grounded in maturity and an understanding of the realities of everyday general practice. I would also value representing GPs at every stage of their careers, including those balancing the demands of medicine with family and life beyond work.

I have lived in Western Australia for more than 20 years and feel a strong connection to our medical community. I have enormous respect for our WA leaders who have contributed so much regionally, nationally and internationally, and I would be proud to play my part if afforded the opportunity.