

2023 Annual General Meeting

Minutes



The Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (**RANZCP**) (ABN 68 000 439 047), was held at the Riverside Theatre, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth, Western Australia, 6000, Australia on Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 3.30 pm (AWST).

RANZCP Board Directors and RANZCP Members Present

- Associate Professor Vinay Lakra (President, Chair)
- Dr Elizabeth Moore (President-Elect)
- Professor Neeraj Gill (Elected Director)
- Dr Mark Lawrence (Elected Director)
- Dr Sue Mackersey (Elected Director)
- Dr Nick O'Connor (Elected Director)
- Associate Professor Melanie Turner (Elected Director)
- More than 20 Members present in person and entitled to vote (list of all attendees is appended)

In Attendance

- Ms Callie Kalimniou (Company Secretary)
- Ms Sharon McGowan (CEO)

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President welcomed all Members to the Annual General Meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Nations and the traditional custodians of the lands and waters now known as Australia, and Māori as tangata whenua in Aotearoa, also known as New Zealand. Today we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk people.

We recognise and value the traditional knowledge held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Māori.

We honour and respect the Elders past and present, who weave their wisdom into all realms of life - spiritual, cultural, social, emotional, and physical.

Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

We recognise those with lived and living experience of a mental health condition, including community members and College members. We affirm their ongoing contribution to the improvement of mental healthcare for all people.

2. APOLOGIES AND QUORUM

The President confirmed that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open at 3.30 pm. The following apologies were received and noted:

- Dr Clive Smith
- Dr Heinz Albrecht
- Dr Raymond Chynoweth
- Dr Sandy Tait
- Dr Joanne Fitz-Gerald
- Dr Haider Mghazaj
- Dr Saji Damodaran
- Dr William White

Drs White, Chynoweth, Mghazaji and Albrecht appointed the Chair of the AGM as proxy. Dr Fitz-Gerald appointed Dr Sue Mackersey as proxy.

The President also acknowledged a guest, Professor Peter Moore.

3. MEMORIAL MINUTE

The President commemorated the following Members who passed in 2022, and all in attendance observed a minute of respectful silence:

- Dr Akolawole Ayonrinde
- Dr Anne Hall
- Dr James Stevenson
- Dr Ian Burges Watson
- Dr Balram Iyer
- Dr Errol Tompinks
- Dr Alexander Daneel
- Dr Oliver O'Connell
- Dr Vance Tottman
- Dr Ilyn De Leon
- Prof. George Patton
- Dr Huu Duy Tran
- Dr Hedy Farmer
- Dr Carlyle Perera

4. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Resolution 1: Confirmation of previous minutes

It was resolved on a show of hands that the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the RANZCP be accepted.

Resolution 2: Confirmation of minutes of Members' Requisition General Meeting

It was resolved on a show of hands that the minutes of the 2022 Members' Requisition General Meeting of the RANZCP be accepted.

5. 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RANZCP BOARD

The President confirmed the composition of the RANZCP Board from May 2022 to May 2023:

Associate Professor Vinay Lakra	President
Dr Elizabeth Moore	President-Elect; Chair, Members' Advisory Council; Chair, Audit Committee
Dr Nick O'Connor	Elected Director; Chair, Education Committee
Associate Professor Melanie Turner	Elected Director; Chair, Corporate Governance and Risk Committee
Dr Mark Lawrence	Elected Director; Chair, Membership Engagement Committee
Dr Sue Mackersey	Elected Director; Chair, Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee
Professor Neeraj Gill	Elected Director; Chair, Finance Committee
Dr Pramudie Gunaratne	Appointed Director, Trainee; Chair, Trainee Advisory Council (TAC)

Report of the President

The President, A/Prof Lakra, presented the President's Report. The following matters undertaken in 2022 were highlighted:

- The finalisation of the 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan. Members were thanked for their feedback to the consultation.
- The work and sustained annual growth of the RANZCP Foundation.
- The achievements and influence of the Psychiatry Interest Forum (PIF).

- The strengthening of collaborative partnerships international and domestically, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Psychiatric Society.
- Board priorities and highlights included:
 - Welcoming the College's first Trainee as an Appointed Director on the Board
 - Appointment of a new CEO for the College.
 - Establishing the Bi-national Committee for Trainees and a new Trainee Advisory Council, increasing the voice of trainees within the College.
 - Progressing work on the RANZCP Diploma of Psychiatry.
 - Continuing to shape the future of College assessments.
 - Undertaking a comprehensive re-accreditation process.
 - Purchasing and opening a new WA Office and completing renovations to the NSW Branch.
 - Growth of the Specialist Training Program (STP) with additional support projects in rural and military and veteran psychiatry; and management of 255.31 training and training supervisor posts.
 - Fully divesting from fossil fuels, furthering the College's commitment to climate and sustainability measures and ensuring alignment with our investment policy.
 - Successfully advocating for the reinstatement of the MBS item for telehealth in Australia.
 - Scoping a project to benchmark academic psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and to develop a model for future growth.
 - Delivering a Members' Requisition General Meeting in accordance with AGM guidelines.
 - Establishing Steering Groups to oversee an independent review of the evidence for long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders; and contemporary approaches to the development of high-quality, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand.

Fellows Honoured

The President congratulated Members who were publicly honoured in Australia and New Zealand for their achievements and contributions to psychiatry and mental health in 2022:

- Professor Brian Draper (AM)
- Professor Margaret (Jane) Turner (AM)
- Dr Frances Dark (OAM)
- Emerita Professor Cherrie Galletly (OAM)
- Dr Jacob George (OAM)
- Associate Professor Sathya Rao (OAM)
- Dr Brian Stagoll (OAM)

The President also congratulated Fellows who reached the milestone of 50 years of College membership in 2022:

- Prof Sir Mason Durie ONZ KNZM
- Dr William Goh
- Dr Yvonna Greenberg
- Dr Robert Haik
- Dr Peter Hansen
- Dr Derek Johns
- Dr Paul Kirby
- Dr David Leonard AM
- Prof Graham Mellsop CNSM
- Dr Robin Moir
- Dr Tobie Sacks
- Prof Bruce Singh AM
- Dr Ronald Spielman
- Dr Ann Stephenson
- Dr John Taylor
- Dr Anthony Williams
- Dr Sid Williams
- Dr Aija Wilson
- Dr John Wurm

Report of the Members' Advisory Council

The Chair of the Members' Advisory Council (MAC), Dr Moore, presented the Report of the MAC and highlighted the following key topics discussed by the MAC at its meetings held in 2022, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee Forum
- Member wellbeing
- Membership engagement
- Telehealth MBS item numbers
- Faculty, Section, and Network review
- Position Statement 78: RANZCP engagement with the pharmaceutical industry
- Honeysuckle Health and managed care
- 2021 November AV OSCE review
- Clinical Practice Guideline review
- RANZCP Strategic Plan
- Future of assessments
- Rural Psychiatry Training Pathway

Report of the Education Committee

The Chair of the Education Committee (EC), Dr O'Connor, presented the Report of the EC and highlighted its key achievements and initiatives in 2022 in the following areas:

CPD, Accreditation and Reporting

- Undertook a comprehensive reaccreditation process in October 2022.
- Accredited the new Rural Western Australia Fellowship program and reaccredited 5 Fellowship programs across Australia and New Zealand.
- Received accreditation as a CPD Home from 1 January 2023.
- Second Exit Survey of Fellowship Program completed with several QI recommendations across.

Training and Development

- Highest intake of 374 Trainees; 265 Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) candidates admitted to Fellowship; and 117 Certificates of Advanced Training awarded.
- Reviewed the Comparability Assessment Framework for overseas-trained psychiatrists.
- Supervisor Survey generated a series of recommendations, leading to a Supervisor workshop (pre-Congress) and the establishment a Supervisor Project Working Group.
- Reviewed EPAs to streamline and reduce the number of EPAs and develop content of EPAs as they apply to Stage 1 & 2 training.
- Completed the design of module 1 of the Advanced Skills Training (Rehabilitation Psychiatry).

Assessment Update

- Since the implementation of the Alternative Assessment Pathway and Clinical Competency Assessment (CCA), the College caught up with the projected backlog in candidate trajectories.
- Since November 2021, 823 candidates received an assessment and 754 candidates demonstrated that they meet the standard.
- Delays in training trajectories and the personal and professional implications of the CCA of workforce and service delivery challenges in 2022 were effectively mitigated.

Digital Education Services

- Developed InTrain functionality to support CCA requirements.
- Audited the eLearning Catalogue to establish lifecycle management of modules and resources and identify any gaps in content to drive development.
- Published 63 Psych Matters podcasts, achieving 71,000 downloads.

- Completed the Recording Studio at the Melbourne office.

Assessment Transformation

- Further to the AAP as an emergency response, the College began to conceptualise assessment models beyond this situation.
- Three stakeholder consultations and two major stakeholder forums were delivered in 2022 to determine the future of the program of assessments.

Report of the Corporate Governance And Risk Committee

The Chair of the Corporate Governance and Risk Committee (CGRC), Associate Professor Turner, presented the Report of the CGRC and highlighted its key initiatives in 2022, including:

- Reviewed election documentation ahead of the 2023 elections, including development of an Appointed Director, Trainee appointment procedure. Coordinated the College's Elected Director election and completed the election processes for 121 College committees and 972 positions.
- Worked with the Trainee Representative Committee (TRC) to develop a revised governance model which led to the formation of the Bi-national Committee for Trainees (BCT) and the Trainee Advisory Council (TAC).
- Reviewed the governance structures underpinning the Review, Reconsideration and Appeal processes, to ensure further independence and procedural fairness.
- Reviewed all College Risk Registers.
- Reviewed a variety of documents prior to submission to the Board, primarily relating to the areas of Practice, Policy and Partnerships, and to Education and Training.
- Discussed constitutional change processes relating to trainee and Affiliate voting rights and an ongoing Board position for a trainee-elected Director. The survey of the Fellowship received 699 responses.

Report of the Membership Engagement Committee

The Chair of the Membership Engagement Committee (MEC), Dr Lawrence, presented the Report of the MEC and highlighted key initiatives in 2022, including:

- Development of a Position Statement on the safety and wellbeing of psychiatrists and those in psychiatry training.
- Development of a Member Wellbeing Action Plan and Gender Equity Action Plan.
- Introduction of a new trainee fee structure to support those training at less than full time.
- Facilitation of nearly 100 new partnerships in the third year of the RANZCP Mentoring Program.
- Recommended more than 70 reductions or exemptions in membership fees.
- Supported the planning and delivery of more than 20 member webinars and online events to improve member engagement and support members' CPD.
- Acknowledged **276** Fellows who reached a milestone under the Member Recognition Program.
- Oversaw various activities and initiatives to enhance engagement with trainees and early career psychiatrists, following the AV OSCE cancellation.
- The MEC is also committed to further work which will foster a supportive and inclusive College for all:

He mana tō te kupu (words have power) and so do our actions. How we relate and interact with each other with compassion and respect matters. No effort is too small or is empty of meaning.

Report of the Practice, Policy And Partnerships Committee

The Chair of the Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee (PPPC), Dr Mackersey, presented the Report of the PPC and highlighted key initiatives in 2022 in the following areas:

- Coordinated 120 submissions to consultation at national and state and territory levels.
- Rolled out the Consultation Hub for member and lived experience engagement.
- Published 18 new and updated College policies and practice guidance; Smoking Cessation Guidelines and supporting resources; Professional Practice Guideline: Treating Hepatitis C; Private Practice Resources; and 4 Clinical Memoranda.
- Awarded 6 grants totalling \$33,343 through the Beverley Raphael New Investigator Grant and the Early Research Career Grant to trainees and Fellows via the Committee for Research.
- Funded \$54,255 to support the training of 13 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander trainees and 8 Māori trainees.
- Introduced the Recognition of Lived Experience at College meetings; collaborated with Lived Experience Australia to produce the report on Loneliness and Mental Health; and began development of the Lived Experience Strategy.

Report of the Appointed Director, Trainee

Dr Gunaratne spoke to key achievements in 2022 including the development of the TAC as a forum for trainees from across Australia and New Zealand to come together and discuss their concerns with the College staff and leadership. Dr Gunaratne noted, however, that the College still has room to improve and encouraged the continued growth and development of the TAC and its role in enhancing the voice of trainees.

Dr Gunaratne shared reflections of her experience as the first Trainee appointed to the Board, how the role had changed her perceptions of the College, and the current landscape for trainees in psychiatry. Many College members dedicate significant unpaid time and passion to the College, and Dr Gunaratne encouraged all members to engage with the Board.

She spoke to the increasing volume of mental health presentations i bi-nationally and their escalating complexity. Australia and New Zealand are facing severe work force shortages and in many places an exodus of staff specialists from the public sector. Trainees are integral to the medical workforce and must be supported in the public health system and the workforce challenges.

Dr Gunaratne acknowledged the privilege of having one of eight votes on the Board, whilst Trainees do not have the same privilege within the broader College. Other major Colleges recognise the right of their trainees to vote on college matters, however the most recent survey of RANZCP Fellows showed that less than half of the Fellowship would support Constitutional change. Dr Gunaratne implored the Fellowship to question where these views stem from and consider what it says about broader attitudes towards Registrars.

Dr Gunaratne welcomed Dr Ava Carter as the incoming Appointed Director, Trainee and thanked members for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Resolution 3: Receipt of the 2022 Annual Report of the RANZCP Board

It was resolved on a show of hands that the 2022 Annual Report of the RANZCP Board be accepted.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Report was presented by Finance Committee Chair, Professor Gill, and highlighted the following key activities of the Committee from 2022:

- Oversight of the College financial management, ensuring a strong fiscal and financially viable position.
- Monitored cash flows, operating results, and financial position throughout the year.
- Reviewed mid-year forecasts, 2023 budget, and several College business cases.
- Oversight of the College Investment Subcommittee.
- Reviewed investments with external advisor JBWere (in accordance with RANZCP Investment Policy).

2022 Financial Report and Auditor's Report

Prof Gill presented the 2022 financial results summary, which included:

- The 2022 operating results were better than budgeted.
- Operating revenue and operating expenditure were both higher in 2022 reflecting the increased number of events and activities post-covid compared with 2021.
- Forward looking into 2023, costs are expected to increase driven by inflation, a tight labour market, and the need for additional resourcing to support the work of the Education and Training department to deliver the development of the overall program of assessments and AMC report conditions.
- The Operating Surplus for the 2022 financial year is \$1.3M.
- Working Capital Ratio as at 31 December 2022 is 1.55
- Net Assets as at 31 December 2022 is \$45.94M
- The major projects with external funding, including:
 - Specialist training placements and support: \$20.5m
 - Training more Specialist Doctors in Tasmania (Tasmania Project): \$0.7m
 - Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) – STP: \$4.8m
- The investment portfolio with JBWere at 31 December 2022:
 - Investment portfolio value: \$10.5m
 - Movement in the fair value: realised gains of \$0.2m and unrealised losses of \$1.7m
 - Dividends and distributions: \$277k
- The operating bank account interest at 31 December 2022: \$133k
- An independent valuer provided a desktop revaluation in 2022 and the value as at 31 December 2022 is \$23.88m.
- The College did not increase fees in 2021 and 2022 due to covid. Fees were increased by 3.85% in 2023 due to significant inflation, staff salary increases and various other expenses.

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee Report was presented by Audit Committee Chair, Dr Moore. The following key matters addressed by the Committee were highlighted:

- Ensured compliance with relevant statutory financial reporting requirements. No new and revised Australian Accounting Standards came into effect during the reporting period.
- Oversaw the financial audit process and reviewed the Auditor's Closing Report for 2022.
- As a cyber security is a significant risk for all organisations, reviewed the College information technology security and controls including regular reports from a cybersecurity company providing monitoring and detection services to the College.
- Tesserent Cybersecurity Operations Centre was engaged to provide Managed Security, Detection and Response services – to detect, investigate and eradicate threats to cloud and ICT environments.

- Adopted the ATO's recommendation that a yearly self-review of status be undertaken by organisations endorsed for charity tax concessions.
- Ensured the College undertook a self-review of the College's structure and operations around income tax exemption during 2022. Based on the outcome of the self-review, the Audit Committee concluded that the College remains compliant with the ATO endorsement for charity tax concessions.

Resolution 4: Financial and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

It was resolved on a show of hands that the Financial Report and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 of the RANZCP be received.

7. Declaration of the result of the full preferential vote of the President-Elect election

The President declared that in accordance with the RANZCP Constitution, Dr Astha Tomar had been elected by the Fellowship as President-Elect, and that the term would commence at the conclusion of the 2023 AGM and cease at the conclusion of the AGM in 2025, at which time Dr Tomar will assume to the role of President for a two-year term. Seven nominations were received for the position of President-Elect following a call for nominations; the vote and count methods are full preferential; and 37% of Fellows voted.

8. Declaration of the appointment of the Appointed Director, Trainee

The President declared that in accordance with the Board Election Regulations and the Appointment of an Appointed Director, Trainee to the Board Procedure, Dr Ava Carter was appointed to the position of Appointed Director, Trainee. Six nominations were received following a call for nominations; a Board Selection panel interviewed all candidates; a secret ballot was undertaken; and the voting method was first past the post. The Appointed Director, Trainee is appointed for a twelve-month term.

The Board thanked and acknowledged Dr Pramudie Gunaratne for her time as the inaugural trainee on the Board.

RANZCP Board Members from 31 May 2023

The President announced the 2023-2024 RANZCP Board:

- Dr Elizabeth Moore – President (2023-2025)
- Dr Astha Tomar – President-Elect (2023-2025)
- Professor Neeraj Gill – Elected Director (2022-2024)
- Dr Mark Lawrence – Elected Director (2022-2024)
- Dr Sue Mackersey – Elected Director (2022-2024)
- Dr Nick O'Connor – Elected Director (2022-2024)
- A/Prof Melanie Turner – Elected Director (2022-2024)
- Dr Ava Carter – Appointed Director, Trainee (2023-2024)

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the meeting in accordance with the RANZCP Constitution or the law. The President opened the floor to questions from the membership:

Donna Clarke, NZ (via email prior to the AGM)

Question: What kind of psychiatrists are we creating who are now not expected to do a formal clinical examination? We are producing psychiatrists who are biological with the demise of the art of psychiatry, the ability to formulate and make sense of the whole person, to sit alongside. This mentality permeating our college concerns me, and I think points to a future where we will no longer be required. We already allow other specialties to define us. The one thing we had which is being systematically destroyed was our ability to attempt to see the whole picture, to attempt to make sense of it first to ourselves and then

to those we serve, to engage in the subtleties and grossness of life, the magical and the concrete, the terrestrial and celestial - the art of psychiatry.

Dr O'Connor advised that it is the College's intention, which is supported through our stakeholder consultations and endorsed by the sentiment that we received in the survey and petition, that we need to be restoring a formulative clinical assessment with a real patient in authentic settings to our assessment program. That type of assessment is included in the two options that have emerged as part of our workshop.

Dr Pia Brous, VIC (via email prior to the AGM)

Question: Professor Pat McGorry has repeatedly raised the plight of the "Missing Middle", being patients who are not receiving mental health services. This group has increased hugely due to the emotional and neuro-psychiatric impacts of Covid 19. The recent AMC report has greatly criticized the current psychiatric training. When will psychiatrists be trained to assess and treat the Missing Middle?"

Dr O'Connor responded that the College has been revising the syllabus and curriculum in 2022/2023 to ensure it contains all mental disorders of high prevalence and these are well represented. Input on the curriculum review has been received from all College Sections and Faculties. At the recent MAC meeting it was recognised that the College needs to be developing private practice and high prevalence disorder environments for its trainees to make sure they do have these skills.

The President also noted that the College has been successful in increasing the number of STP positions. The College and Board continues to work with the government to ensure enhanced training available to trainees in private practice.

A/Prof Robert Parker, NT

Question: A/Prof Parker followed up on his question from the 2022 AGM regarding a past President of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and American Psychiatric Association (APA), Ewan Cameron. A/Prof Parker reiterated that Dr Cameron had tortured patients to develop brainwashing techniques for the CIA and noted concerns that there has not been a formal apology from the WPA or APA for patients who were abused by Dr Cameron. A/Prof Parker asked if the Board could provide an update.

A/Prof Parker also noted his disappointment that no mention had been made of Andrew Peters' honorary Fellowship or contribution to the College during the AGM presentation.

The President advised that enquiries were made with both the WPA and APA. Since 2006, the APA has had a Position Statement on Psychiatric Participation in Interrogation of Detainees. There are limitations to what the College can do in these circumstances given Dr Cameron was a member of other organisations. However, the Presidents of WPA and APA attended the 2023 Congress and the issue has been raised with them. An update will be provided if there is something to come out of that enquiry.

The President confirmed that Mr Peter's contributions to the College has been recognised via several announcements, including at the 2022 AGM and communication to members. The President again formally recognised Mr Peter's 15-year contribution, including 10+ years as CEO of the College.

Dr Prabhath Kodancha, VIC

Question: Dr Kodancha congratulated the Board for the dynamic steps taken towards diversity and inclusion with various stakeholders being a part of the process. However, SIMGs do not have access to many of the resources enjoyed by other members, including access to College Journals and EPAs. In addition, Dr Kodancha noted that there are less opportunities for SIMGs to participate in an Advanced Training Program in their area of interest. Trainees can commence an Advanced Training Program whilst undertaking Stage 3 of the training program, SIMGs must achieve Fellowship before they are eligible. Dr Kodancha requested that the Board consider this disparity and consult with SIMGs in the process.

The President advised that the Board approved in principle the inclusion of SIMGs in Australia who are on the College pathway as Affiliate members of College. SIMGs will shortly receive an automatic Affiliate membership and be able to access the same College resources as other Affiliate members. SIMG representation on the Board will be considered in the broader context of Board diversity through the Board Evaluation, due to commence in the second half of 2023.

Dr Kodancha sought additional clarification on whether a SIMG who has not yet achieved Fellow is eligible for advanced training, noting that at present Stage 3 trainees are able to participate. Dr O'Connor

advised that the question would be taken on notice, noting that Advanced Training Programs are subject to different rules and requirements.

A/Prof Mathew Coleman, WA

Question: A/Prof Coleman commented that the projections for inflation reference in the 2022 Financial Report are half of what they currently are. A/Prof Coleman appreciated the fact that fees have not been increased over the past two years but queried whether the 2023 increase was in keeping with the CPI and in terms of the current WCR of 1.55.

Prof Gill reiterated that the WCR of 1.55 was calculated by dividing Total Current Assets (\$55.186m) with Total Current Liabilities (\$35.69m), which shows that the College is in a solid financial position. However, the College froze fee increases for two years irrespective of the CPI. The College had a budget surplus in the last year of \$1.3m. In 2023, the College has a projected budget deficit of \$4.6m due to increases to staff numbers and salaries in line with the WPI and CPI increases as well as expenses associated with education and consultancies.

The Finance Committee considered a range of options, including a 3%, 4% and 5% increase to subscription fees, to finalise an approach that balances expectations of members with a sound fiscal policy. Prof Gill was confident that 3.85% could manage the budget as other measures are being taken, such as limiting in-person meetings for College Committees.

Dr Nathan Jacobs, NSW

Question: None of the awards presented at the Fellowship ceremony on Monday appeared to be for the private sector. What does this suggest about the College's position on psychiatrists working in the private sector? Dr Jacobs expressed feeling like a second-class citizen within the College as a private sector psychiatrist, in addition to the second-class citizenship I feel as a psychiatrist doing psychotherapy. The College seems to hate psychotherapists and continues to turn a blind eye to evidence of the effectiveness of psychotherapy. Dr Jacobs noted concerns at the time it has taken for the College to review the Mood Disorders Guidelines.

The President emphasised that three current Board directors currently work in private practice. Last year the College awarded a Medal of Honour to Prof Malcolm Hopwood who is a prominent private practice psychiatrist in Melbourne. The President stressed the importance of nominating people for awards but advised that the concerns raised may be looked at in the context of improving the diversity of those who receive awards. The President also noted that last year Prof Bruce Singh was the first College member of a diverse background to receive a College Medal of Honour which highlights that diversity issues within the College award system go beyond the issue of private practice representation.

The President highlighted the significant efforts made during the pandemic around telehealth advocacy to the benefit of private practice psychiatrists. The Board and College has provided significant support to private psychiatry in Australia. The College's Section of Private Practice is actively involved in supporting private practitioners.

The College has a Faculty of Psychotherapy. The President noted the importance not conflating the issue of evidence based psychodynamic psychotherapy in mood disorders guideline with psychodynamic psychotherapy generally. There have been delays in progressing the review of the Mood Disorders guideline, which is related to challenges sourcing external organisations who are available to undertake the review. The College recognises the importance of an independent review and as such a Steering Group was established and is being Chaired by Prof Bruce Singh.

Dr Jacobs queried why the biological psychiatry evidence was reviewed internally when the psychotherapy evidence is being reviewed externally, noting the disparity between the two processes.

The President confirmed that when questions were raised about psychodynamic psychotherapy, the College did not go back and look specifically at the evidence internally. Guidelines were developed by the Future Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines Steering Group on the basis of evidence available for mood disorders at that time. Due to the issues established around psychodynamic psychotherapy, a Steering Group was established and an external process developed.

Dr Andy Horrigan, NZ

Question: The substantial comparability pathway to Fellowship is challenging for those who have gone into administrative/leadership roles who aren't seeing people clinically because the pathway is more geared towards this. Should SIMGs of substantial tenure or who have been Affiliate members for some time and are in administrative roles have an alternative pathway to Fellowship?

The President acknowledged the need for the College to address the issue of Affiliates in New Zealand. One of the current issues is that the pathways in Australia and New Zealand are very different. The approach by AHPRA and Australian Medical Board is very clear that anyone who wants to stay long term in Australia needs to progress on the general registration pathway or specialist registration pathway. As a result, a specialist coming into Australia must complete either of the two pathways to achieve that qualification. If unable to do this, then the general pathway and AMC process is to be undertaken. Conversely, the Medical Council of New Zealand continues to maintain a vocational registration pathway. The College has worked to align the two processes along with the comparability assessment process conducted by the College.

Dr O'Connor appreciated Dr Horrigan's particular predicament and advised that the College is reviewing the comparability assessment framework. The review needs to consider senior clinicians who have contributed significantly to the system and are now promoted to an administrative/leadership position that may make it difficult to navigate.

Dr O'Connor advised that the question would be taken on notice and encouraged input from others in other predicaments that may not have been considered in terms of the finer human detail. It is an opportune time to ventilate issues such as this as the Commonwealth is interested in ways the Regulations can be made more sensible and more appreciative of SIMG expertise.

Dr Gary Galambos, NSW

Question: Dr Galambos advised the Board that he joined the NSW Branch Committee in 2003 due to difficulties associated with getting registrar posts accredited in the private sector. Dr Galambos acknowledged that he has felt supported by the College as a private practitioner, however representation of private practitioners has been skewed. Dr Galambos raised concerns regarding the training program falling behind other medical colleges and that members in private practice have been concerned that the College is not taking necessary steps. Earlier comments however show that this may not be the case. This issue involves structural reform, not just STP positions as the public sector dominates those positions. Trainees should have adequate private sector experience. Dr Galambos queried if there was appetite for the College to look at this from a structural perspective, beyond simply asking the Section of Private Practice Psychiatry to look at the training program. The Branch Training Committees alone are not equipped to determine this.

Dr O'Connor noted that at its recent meeting, the MAC was advised that a number of private practitioners would support this. STP is an important aspect, particularly as there is government support, but it is also necessary to consider other mechanisms. This is clearly an important issue for members as most college Fellows go into private practice.

Dr Galambos expressed appreciation for the 2-year freeze on fee increases. Covid was traumatising for all, especially so in private practice. In line with this, the demand for psychiatry services has been significant. Many private practitioners have stopped seeing pharmaceutical and device representatives. Dr Galambos noted that in the last year, the only exposure and interactions is during Congress and asked if the Board could keep this in mind.

Dr Moore advised that it was an operational decision that Congress would not receive pharmaceutical or medical device support and this decision will not be reviewed for 5 years. There are still ways for pharmaceutical representatives to reach members, for example via industry dinners.

Dr Karishma Kulkarni, VIC

In addition to Trainees, is there consideration being given for voting rights for SIMGs? SIMGs also cannot use the experience accumulated as registrars in Australia towards an Certificate of Advanced Training, which is unfair.

Dr O'Connor agreed with Dr Kulkarni's statements regarding SIMGs and the Advanced Training Program and advised this would be taken on notice.

Dr Gunaratne advised that a survey was conducted amongst the Fellowship which included a question regarding voting rights for SIMGs. There was slightly more support for SIMGs than trainees. The College is considering the approach for constitutional change.

Dr Dominika Baetens, VIC

Dr Baetens queried the College's plans to prevent further rupture and bring the membership along in the decision-making process.

The President advised that the College has been considering how it communicates and engages with members. The College's new CEO also has communication expertise. In addition, the College has reviewed governance of training committees and formed the TAC, however, more can be done.

Dr O'Connor confirmed that significant effort and time has gone into communicating with the membership and that the College is open to advice and suggestions. The Appointed Director, Trainee has been a considerable support with the trainee voice. The College also produces podcasts and webinars. Dr O'Connor acknowledged that Branch and New Zealand National Committees could be better communicated with regarding assessments, as they are important conduits.

Dr Baetens clarified that it is more about the membership feeling involved and part of active dialogue, and this is not just limited to Trainee involvement. Dr Baetens noted that the College is relying on the membership to implement major changes. These changes will affect them down the track, so they need to be a part of the process earlier.

Dr O'Connor advised that the College aims to involve all stakeholders in complex decisions regarding matters of education and training, however it is important for stakeholders to have the relevant background and experience. The College cannot make decisions about assessments, examinations, or training through a membership vote. To understand the complexities, stakeholders need to have read relevant documentations and work with relevant Committees. The College has ensured that key stakeholders are participating in those major decisions and forums.

Unknown

The Member noted that SIMGs make up almost half the psychiatry workforce but have limited opportunities. There should be a voting process to allow SIMGs to be given advanced training. In addition, the College needs to start advocacy around ending the moratorium. Is there any advocacy around this? Finally, the curriculum includes high prevalence disorders and EPAs for all high prevalence conditions. However, the implementation of those within the current training course should be scrutinised. Public services should be made accountable to ensure that Trainees are getting exposure to high prevalence disorders. If they are not competent with EPAs, how are they passing exams?

The President noted comments regarding the moratorium and advised that advocacy takes different shapes. Telehealth during the pandemic, as an example, took two weeks to reach a successful outcome. Conversely, advocacy to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been going on for a decade. The College has advocated to the Federal Government and recommended the moratorium be removed, especially for psychiatry and in particular child and adolescent psychiatry. The College has a clear position on the moratorium but requires collective advocacy from the medical profession.

Dr Amanda Young, VIC

Dr Young queried what resourcing has the College provided for the progress that needs to occur in training and assessments in the next four years? The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists has been discussing workforce shortage and training programs for several years.

Dr O'Connor advised that the College collaborates with ANZCA and their curriculum is gold standard.

Dr Renate Mundi, VIC

Dr Mundi raised concerns regarding increasing encroachment of psychologists into matters more appropriate for psychiatrists, particularly regarding diagnosis.

A/Prof Turner advised that the role of psychiatrists has been a strong theme at MAC meetings. It is important to help the community understand what psychiatrists do and delineate the role of psychiatrists from that of psychologists, particularly with NDIS and the changing structure.

Dr Imbi Ehvart, SA

There is repair work needed with Trainees, however the AGM has shown that everyone is working towards the same goal. Dr Ehvart advised of their difficult relationship with the College at times, and that this AGM has changed their perception. The Board could consider presenting as individuals to improve the relationship with Trainees. In addition, the College's Committee structure is very different to other Medical Colleges. Is this a strength or is this a problem in terms of the effectiveness for the College?

A/Prof Turner advised that work on the College's Committee structure commenced with the previous CGRC Chair. There is an external consultant engaged to review the Faculty, Section and Network structure, and compare the current structure to what a future workforce will look like. The Board seeks to make Committees contemporaneous and helpful, and ensure they maximise resources and valuable time. This work will be progressed by the CGRC over the next 12 months.

Jan Geerstema, QLD

The Member expressed support for the Congress debate held the previous day.

There was no other business brought before the meeting in accordance with the RANZCP Constitution or the law.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING AND PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm AWST.

The official Presidential handover from Associate Professor Vinay Lakra and incoming President, Dr Elizabeth Moore, took place.

Members were thanked for their attendance and support during 2022.

Appendix: RANZCP Members attending the 2023 Annual General Meeting

First Name	Last Name	State or New Zealand	Member Type (Fellow, Affiliate or Associate)
Antonella	Ventura	NSW	Fellow
Richard	Harvey	VIC	Fellow
Simon	Stafrace	VIC	Fellow
Kaushadh	Jayakody	VIC	Fellow
Stephen	Pannell	WA	Trainee
Rebecca	Evans	NSW	Trainee
Katherine	Jones	NSW	Trainee
Daniela	Sabbioni	WA	Trainee
Sarah	Mathews	WA	Fellow
Andy	Teodorczuk	QLD	Fellow
Alan	Altham	WA	Trainee
Vinay	Lakra	VIC	Fellow
Elizabeth	Moore	ACT	Fellow
Melanie	Turner	SA	Fellow
Nick	O'Connor	NSW	Fellow
Sue	Mackersey	NZ	Fellow
Mark	Lawrence	NZ	Fellow
Neeraj	Gill	QLD	Fellow
Pramudie	Gunaratne	NSW	Fellow
Robert	Parker	NT	Fellow
Mark	Shillito	NSW	Fellow
Nagesh	Pai	NSW	Fellow
Dominika	Baetens	VIC	Fellow
Steven	Blefari	WA	Fellow
Joe	Vattakatuchery	VIC	Fellow
Kerry	Mack	VIC	Fellow
Murali	Reddi	ACT	Fellow
Prakriti	Jain	ACT	Fellow
Prasoon	Gupte	QLD	Fellow
Gregory	Apel	QLD	Fellow
Ann	Solar	WA	Fellow
Astha	Tomar	VIC	Fellow
John	Baker	NSW	Fellow
Nathan	Gibson	WA	Fellow
Prue	McEvoy	SA	Fellow
Edward	Ko Ko Aung	SA	Fellow
Mohan	Isaac	WA	Fellow
Pia	Brous	VIC	Fellow
Loyola	McLean	NSW	Fellow
George	Halasz	VIC	Fellow
Karishma	Kulkarni	VIC	Fellow
Doaa	Radwan	NSW	Fellow
Kevin	Hsieh	VIC	Trainee

First Name	Last Name	State or New Zealand	Member Type (Fellow, Affiliate or Associate)
Stephen	Parker	QLD	Fellow
Sam	Houston	QLD	Trainee
Arun	Pillai	QLD	Fellow
Jenny	Barry	QLD	Fellow
Rodney	Blanch	NSW	Fellow
Prachi	Brahmbhatt	NSW	Fellow
Clive	Bensemam	NZ	Fellow
Tanni	Chowdhury	WA	Trainee
Faiz	Noore	NSW	Fellow
John	Crawshaw	NZ	Fellow
Andrew	Horrigan	NZ	Affiliate
Margaret	Aimer	NZ	Fellow
Rowan	Keighran	NSW	Fellow
Prabhath	Kodancha	VIC	Fellow
John	Allan	QLD	Fellow
Mathew	Coleman	WA	Fellow
David	Kitching	NSW	Fellow
Victor	Storm	NSW	Fellow
Michael	Prior	NSW	Fellow
Perrin	Kwek	ACT	Fellow
Angus	Finlay	ACT	Fellow
Jeff	Thompson	QLD	Fellow
Amit	Dahiya	WA	Fellow
Jan	Geertsema	QLD	Fellow
Enrico	Cementon	VIC	Fellow
Sharad	Tamrakar	TAS	Fellow
Adam	Mollinger	VIC	Fellow
Basanth	Kenchaiah	VIC	Fellow
Daniel	Pellen	NSW	Fellow
Joanne	Ferguson	NSW	Fellow
Ben	Bernard	VIC	Fellow
Amanda	Young	VIC	Trainee
Brett	Emmerson	QLD	Fellow
David	Bathgate	NZ	Fellow
Donovan	Moncur	VIC	Fellow
John	Kasinathan	NSW	Fellow
Imbi	Ehvar	SA	Trainee
Yi	Ding	NSW	Fellow
Suman	Sinha	NZ	Fellow
Afraz	Zaman	NSW	Fellow
John	Reilly	QLD	Fellow
Nathan	Jacobs	NSW	Fellow
Donal	Hanratty	WA	Fellow
Catherine	Hercus	VIC	Fellow
Emma	Brownlow	QLD	Trainee

First Name	Last Name	State or New Zealand	Member Type (Fellow, Affiliate or Associate)
Carol	Silerberg	VIC	Fellow
Julia	Moore	WA	Fellow
Kirthi	Kumar	VIC	Fellow
Amit	Banerjee	WA	Fellow
Joshua	Flavell	QLD	Trainee
Richard	Baker	VIC	Fellow
Salam	Hussain	WA	Fellow
Dave	Townsend	WA	Trainee
Ashu	Gandhi	VIC	Fellow
Renate	Mundl	VIC	Fellow
Kate	Wills	NSW	Fellow
Gary	Galambos	NSW	Fellow