

Background

The Board ('Board') of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists ('RANZCP') is the governing body of the College. It has statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012, the College's Constitution and its Regulations. It is elected in accordance with the College's Constitution and Board Election Regulations, with each member being a Director of the Company.

The Board is responsible for all matters relating to the strategic direction, policies, practices and the operations of the College.

This Regulation should be read in conjunction with the College's Constitution.

1. ROLE

The Board's role is to oversee the overall governance, management and strategic direction of the College and to ensure the delivery of its purposes, as defined by Article 2.1 of the Constitution.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for, and has the authority to determine, all matters relating to the strategic direction, policies, practices, goals for management and the operation of the College. Without intending to limit this general role of the Board, the specific functions and responsibilities of the Board include:

- a) Oversight of the College, including its legal, compliance and accountability systems.
- b) Ensuring that the College abides by the purposes for which it was established as set out in the Constitution.
- c) Determining the College's vision, values and strategic purpose and monitor progress on achieving strategy.
- d) Ensuring that the College complies with its regulatory obligations and ethical standards.
- e) Ensuring that policies for governance and risk management are effectively implemented.
- f) Approving and monitoring financial statements and performance against the budgets, the financial objectives and performance targets for the College and other reporting activities.
- g) Setting and undertaking Board and Director evaluations.
- h) Approving the acquisition and disposal of major assets if not already provided for in the budget approval by the Board.
- i) Entering into material financial arrangements, including loans and debt arrangements.
- j) Establishing and overseeing the Members' Advisory Council and committees of the Board.
- k) Appointing, evaluating and removing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Company Secretary.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The composition of the Board shall be in accordance with Article 9.1 of the Constitution. The Board must consist of a minimum of seven Fellows of the College, one of whom must be from Aotearoa New Zealand and one of whom must be from Australia. This includes the President, President-Elect (as Office Bearers) and a minimum of five (5) Elected Directors.

The Board may also appoint up to two Appointed Directors to fill identified skill gaps.

4. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a) The procedure for electing and appointing Directors shall be in accordance with Article 9.3 of the Constitution.
- b) The term of office of Directors shall in accordance with Article 9.4 of the Constitution, or as outlined by the Position Description.
- c) A casual vacancy arising on the Board shall be filled in accordance with Articles 9.3.1(d), 9.3.1(e) and 9.5 of the Constitution and the Procedure for appointing a casual vacancy to the Board.
- d) The process of conducting elections and making appointments will be in accordance with the Board Election Regulations.
- e) The terms and conditions of the appointment of Directors will be set out in a letter of appointment.

5. POWERS AND DELEGATION

Pursuant to Article 8.2 of the Constitution:

- a) "The Board may delegate any of its powers (other than that of delegation) to any person or Committee."
- b) "The Board may revoke any delegation of its powers by ordinary resolution."
- c) "Any Committee exercising the delegated power of the Board shall comply with all Regulations and any conditions or limitations that may be imposed by the Board."

6. LIMITATION ON POWERS

The Board must operate within the requirements of the Constitution.

7. SUPPORT

The Board will work closely with the CEO and Company Secretary, to ensure its responsibilities are met. The CEO, Company Secretary, and appropriate staff shall be available to attend meetings of the Board.

8. OPERATION OF THE BOARD

8.1. Meetings

- a) Meetings of the Board shall be held in accordance with Article 10.1 of the Constitution.
- b) The Board shall meet as often as required but will meet a minimum of six (6) times per year.
- c) Meetings of the Board may be in person, or held virtually, at the discretion of the Chair.

8.2. Notice of Meetings

- a) Board meeting notices will be in accordance with Article 10.2 of the Constitution.
- b) Notice may be given in writing by email specifying the place, time and date of the meeting and the general nature of items to be discussed.

8.3. Chairperson

The President shall assume the Chair position in accordance with Article 10.4 of the Constitution.

8.4. Quorum

The quorum for a Board meeting shall be in accordance with Article 10.3 of the Constitution.

8.5. Proxies

Board members are unable to appoint a proxy to attend a meeting on their behalf.

8.6. Voting

- a) All Board members, except observers and those without authority to vote, shall have full voting rights.
- b) Voting at a Board meeting shall be in accordance with Article 10.5 of the Constitution.

8.7. Written Resolution

A written resolution of the Board shall be undertaken in accordance with Article 10.6 of the Constitution.

8.8. Minutes of Meetings

- a) A written record of all proceedings of Board meetings shall be kept by the College and must record the "proceedings and resolutions" of the Board.
- b) Minutes must be entered within one (1) month into the minute book (whether signed or not).
- c) The minute book should be a separate book from General Meeting minutes.
- d) Minutes of the passing of a resolution without a meeting i.e. a written resolution are recorded in the proceeding Board meeting.

8.9. Virtual Meetings

Virtual meetings shall be undertaken in accordance with Article 10.7 of the Constitution.

8.10. Defects in Appointment or Qualification

All acts done in good faith by a meeting of the Board or a Committee or by any person acting as an Office Bearer, Director or member of a Committee of the College will be valid and effective even if it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of that person or that the person was disqualified from acting for any reason.

8.11. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

- a) All Directors attending a meeting of the Board must declare any conflicts of interest to the Chair. Conflicts of interest will be managed and declared in accordance with Article 11.3 and the College's Declaring and Managing Conflict of Interest Guideline.
- b) The Board must maintain a Conflict of Interest Register. An up-to-date version is to be provided as a part of the agenda at each meeting for the Board to confirm that standing conflicts are a true and accurate record.
- c) Standing conflicts declared at a meeting must be recorded in that meeting's minutes and the Board Conflict of Interest Register must be updated. If the declaration is provided outside of a meeting, any declaration is to be emailed to the Chair and Company Secretary. Other conflicts declared as they arise must also be recorded in the meeting minutes, along with how the declared conflict was managed.
- d) Each Director including any appointed members and observers must sign an Undertaking in Relation to Confidential Information and Management of Conflicts of Interest (the Undertaking).
- e) The Undertaking is valid during, and continues to operate after the cessation of, the Board position, particularly in relation to confidentiality.
- f) All signed Undertakings must be forwarded to the College's Governance Department.

8.12. Financial Responsibility

- a) The Board must develop an annual budget based on the budget process developed by the College in conjunction with the College's Finance and Audit Committee.
- b) The Board is required to operate in accordance with College Policy and within the budgetary constraints as determined by the Board or in accordance with the College's Delegation of Authority Guideline.

9. MEDIA AND AUTHORISED STATEMENTS

- a) With respect to making media or other external comment or representation, the College's Media and Communications Policy should be consulted and adhered to.
- b) Pursuant to Articles 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 of the Constitution, "The President or the Board may authorise any Committee or individual to represent the College before any government or governmental body or committee or to make statements or express views on behalf of the College. The authority may be given generally or for a specific situation and may be given on such conditions as the President or the Board thinks fit. Unless duly authorised to do so under Article 8.4, no Member may make any statement or express any view which purports to be a statement or view of the College or as having been made or expressed on behalf of or with the concurrence of the College".
- c) The President, as delegated by the Board, is authorised to nominate College Members to comment to the media in accordance with their expertise.

10. Board Meeting Code of Conduct

By participating in this meeting, the Board aims to support members, advance psychiatry, and advocate for the best mental health outcomes for communities.

Members of the Board will contribute to strengthening the performance of the Board, improving working relationships, and ensuring all Board members wellbeing is maintained. Board members will attend meetings in good faith with a willingness to share experience and knowledge and support each other in constructive and respectful discussion.

Board members will:

- Attentively listen to others, remain open to suggestions and comments, and ensure respectful communications are maintained at all times.
- Be punctual, prepared, and contribute to the meeting goals.
- Read and give due consideration to information presented to the Board and in advance of all meetings.
- Make an active contribution to discussions, give the views of each Board member consideration, and respect the outcomes supported by the Board.
- Be respectful of the confidential and sensitive information afforded to Board members in their role.
- Accept all opinions and decisions graciously, even if individual views have not been collectively supported.
- Ensure all views are recorded in the minutes, particularly dissenting views.
- Take into consideration Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand perspectives as well as appropriateness to First Nations Peoples and the lived experience voice.

11. REVIEW

These Regulations shall be reviewed annually.

DEFINITIONS

'**Act**' means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

'**Article(s)**' means an article of the Constitution.

'**Appointed Director**' has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.3.3.

'**Board**' means the board of the College established under the Constitution, each member of which shall be a Director of the College.

'**Board position**' means President, President-Elect or Elected Director.

'**Casual Vacancy**' means any vacancy on the Board caused otherwise than by the retirement of a Director at the end of his or her term.

'**Chief Executive Officer**' or '**CEO**' means the individual appointed to the position by the Board in accordance with Article 17.1

'**College**' or '**RANZCP**' means The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

'**Company Secretary**' means the individual appointed to the position by the Board for the purposes of the Act, in accordance with Article 17.2.

'**Constitution**', means the Constitution of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists as amended from time-to-time.

'**Director**' means any person occupying the position of Director of the College, including the President and the President-Elect.

'**Elected**' means the formal election process undertaken to elect a Board member.

'**Elected Director**' means a Director pursuant to Article 9.1.3.

'**Fellow**' means a Member who holds Fellowship of the College pursuant to Article 3.3 of the Constitution.

'**General Meeting**' means a general meeting of the College.

'**Office Bearer**' means a person holding the office of President or President-Elect.

'**Position Description**' is a document that identifies the responsibilities and selection criteria of position holder.

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' means the person for the time being elected to that office.

'**President-Elect**' means person for the time being elected to the office of President-Elect or Acting President-Elect, as the case may be.

'**Regulations**' is a document that identifies the powers and duties of each Committee, determined by the Board in accordance with the Constitution.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Corporations Act 2001
- ACNC Act 2012
- RANZCP Constitution; Media and Communications Policy; Code of Conduct; Code of Ethics; Conflict of Interest Guideline; Conflict of Interest Register; Risk Management Policy; Risk Register and College website
- Undertaking in Relation to Confidential Information and Management of Conflicts of Interest
- Regulations: Corporate Governance and Risk Committee; Finance Committee; Audit Committee; Education Committee; Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee; Membership Engagement Committee; and the Members' Advisory Council
- Position Descriptions: President; President Elect; Elected Director; Appointed Director, Trainee; Chair, Corporate Governance and Risk Committee; Chair, Finance Committee; Chair, Audit

Committee; Chair, Education Committee; Chair, Practice, Policy Partnerships Committee; Chair, Membership Engagement Committee; Member, Members' Advisory Council; and CEO

- Board Election Regulations; and Board Election Campaign Activities Policy
- Appointment of an Appointed Director, Trainee to the Board Procedure
- Procedure for appointing a casual vacancy to the Board
- RANZCP Board Induction Manual.

Revision Record

Contact:	Governance Unit		
Authorising Body:	Board		
Responsible Committee:	Corporate Governance and Risk Committee		
Document Code:	REG Board Regulations		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
17 November 2012	1.0	GC2012/4 R52	New document.
5 July 2017	1.1	Senior Manager, Corporate Governance and Risk	Updated to reflect article numbers under the new Constitution, change of staff titles, new associated documents.
6 July 2018	1.2	Senior Manager, Corporate Governance and Risk	Updated to reflect the change of name to the Media Policy.
21 September 2019	2.0	B2019/7 R13	Updated to align Board practice, Constitution and to reflect the current governance and administrative processes within the College.
15 September 2021	2.1	Executive General Manager, Education and Operations	Updated to reflect the next review date of 2023 with no amendments having been made by the CGRC or Board as part of its review in 2021.
23 February 2022	2.2	B2022/2 R13	Updated with information pertaining to the appointment of an Appointed Director who is a Trainee, including term being referenced within the Position Description, and other minor updates including update of the Contact, and the order of the Revision Record.
6 February 2023	2.3	Executive General Manager, Education and Operations	Updated to include Company Secretary in clause 2. k).
20 December 2023	2.4	President Meeting [PM57; 1.1.05]	Updated to include Meeting Code of Conduct for the Board. Meeting Code of Conduct previously approved by Board [B2023/5 R22], and this has been updated to reflect relevance to Board.
19 November 2024	2.5	B2024/OOS 74	Reviewed ahead of 2025 Board Elections.
NEXT REVIEW: 2025			