

2024 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 Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre Canberra, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia on Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 3.30 pm AEST.

RANZCP Board Directors and RANZCP Members Present

- Dr Elizabeth Moore (President, Chair)
- Dr Astha Tomar (President-Elect)
- Dr Warren Kealy-Bateman (Director, Casual Vacancy)
- Dr Mark Lawrence (Elected Director)
- Dr Sue Mackersey (Elected Director)
- Dr Nick O'Connor (Elected Director)
- Associate Professor Melanie Turner (Elected Director)
- Dr Ava Carter (Appointed Director, Trainee)
- 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 Erin Redmond
- Professor Haider Maghazaji
- Professor Maurice Eisenbruch
- Dr Seigfried Lorbeer
- Dr Tony McCallum
- Dr Haider Maghazaj
- Dr William Russell White

Professor Maghazaji and Dr Lorbeer appointed the Chair of the AGM as proxy. Dr White appointed Dr Mark Lawrence as proxy.

3. MEMORIAL MINUTE

The President commemorated the following Members who passed in 2023, and all in attendance observed a minute of respectful silence:

- Dr Robert Annen
- Dr Shea Cox-Livingstone
- Dr Ian McDougall
- Dr Despina Mouratides
- Dr Anthony Williams
- Dr James Wood
- Dr James Dang
- Dr Manakini Narielvala
- Prof. Neil Yorkston
- Dr Pauline Dunn
- Dr Eleni Nikolau
- Dr Alan Frazer
- Prof. Barry Nurcombe AM
- Dr Bertie Glass
- Dr Viktor Obiri-Boateng
- A/Prof. Edwin Harari
- Dr Peter Papay
- Dr Bernard Hughson
- Dr Tundra Pasqualon
- Dr Aileen Jones
- Dr Norman Shum
- Dr Ivor Jones
- Dr Keren Skegg
- Dr Henry Kristall
- Prof. Graeme Smith
- Dr Geoff Layton
- A/Prof. Marina Vamos
- Dr Ross Manners
- Dr Christina Van Der Veen

The President commemorated the following Members who passed in previous years:

- Dr Clyde Cumming
- Dr Nicholas Destro
- Dr Lalani Weerasinghe
- Dr John Westerink

4. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Resolution 1: Confirmation of previous minutes

[It was resolved on a show of hands that the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the RANZCP be accepted.](#)

5. 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RANZCP BOARD

The President confirmed the composition of the RANZCP Board from May 2023 to May 2024:

Dr Elizabeth Moore	President
Dr Astha Tomar	President-Elect
Dr Nick O'Connor	Elected Director
Associate Professor Melanie Turner	Elected Director
Dr Mark Lawrence	Elected Director
Dr Sue Mackersey	Elected Director
Professor Neeraj Gill	Elected Director (<i>up to October 2023</i>)
Dr Warren Kealy-Bateman	Director, Casual Vacancy (<i>from October 2023</i>)
Dr Ava Carter	Appointed Director, Trainee

Report of the President

The President, Dr Elizabeth Moore, presented the President's Report, including the video "A look back on 2023 at the RANZCP". The following matters undertaken in 2023 were highlighted:

- Launched the Member Wellbeing Action Plan, and Gender Equity Action Plan.
- Released new Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Resources.
- Launched the Barnett Early Parenting Research and Collaboration Grant.
- Commenced an external Board evaluation and progressed the Faculty, Section and Network Review.
- Continued development of the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry.
- Psychiatry Interest Forum (PIF) celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the program was released in New Zealand.
- Continued to advocate for urgent climate action.
- Supported as an organisation, the 'YES' campaign for a First Nations Voice to parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution.
- Endorsed the Lived Experience Strategy.
- Workforce advocacy alongside pre-election and pre-budget campaigns.
- Continued advocacy of the bi-national committees.
- Faculty, Section, Network, and Committee advocacy and key highlights.

The President also congratulated Fellows who reached the milestone of 50 years of College membership in 2023:

- Dr Lois Achimovich
- Dr Maxwell Bawden
- Dr Laurence Blows
- Dr Peter Churven
- Dr Fred Curtis
- Dr Elizabeth Delaney
- Dr Peter Evans
- Dr Robert Gertler
- Emeritus Professor Robert Goldney AO
- Dr Barrie Kenny
- Dr Frank Lumley

- Dr Donald Montgomery
- Dr Peter Mulholland
- Dr Rajakarier Nagulendran
- Dr Thomas Newlyn
- Dr Martin Nothling
- Professor Gordon Parker AO
- Dr Igor Petroff
- A/Prof. Jonathan Phillips AM
- Dr Rene Pols
- A/Prof. Carolyn Quadrio
- Dr George Rawson
- Dr Peter Shannon
- Dr Garry Sheehan
- Dr Livio Turecek

Report of the Members' Advisory Council

The Chair of the Members' Advisory Council (MAC), Dr Astha Tomar, presented the Report of the MAC and highlighted the following key topics discussed by the MAC at its meetings held in 2023, including:

- RANZCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025.
- RANZCP Media and Advocacy Framework.
- Lived Experience Strategy.
- Gender Equity Action Plan.
- Improving member engagement and communication.
- Clinical Competency Portfolio Review (CCPR).
- Future development of Clinical Practice Guidelines.
- Continuous Professional Development, CPD Home.
- Assessments Strategy, Development of Program of Assessments.
- Commonalities in the issues raised around workforce and training across branches.
- Supporting Improvements in how the Board and the College engages with the membership.

Report of the Education Committee

The Chair of the Education Committee (EC), Dr Nick O'Connor, presented the Report of the EC and highlighted its key achievements and initiatives in 2023 in the following areas:

CPD, Accreditation and Reporting

- AMC Reaccreditation granted in March 2023.
- RANZCP accredited as CPD Home.
- CPD Programs for trainees on a prolonged break in training, and substantially comparable SIMGs established.
- Formal Education Courses review completed.
- Continued enhancement in the publication of the Cohort Progression monitor.
- Accreditation activity: 6 zones full assessment; 3 zones mid-cycle assessment; 6 Formal Education Courses (FEC) mid-cycle assessments; and 1 FEC full assessment.
- Second Trainee Exit Survey completed.

Training and Development

- 274 Trainees and SIMG candidates were admitted to Fellowship.
- 144 Certificates of Advanced Training were awarded.
- The EPA Review Working Group developed 13 EPAs and reviewed entrustment framework.
- Supervisor Project Working Group delivered a pre-Congress Supervisor workshop in 2024 and has developed an online learning path proposition.
- The Comparability Assessment Framework tool review was completed for SIMG.
- Development of InTrain for Partial Comparability SIMG candidates progressed.

Assessment Update

- 2366 assessments completed.
- Clinical Competency Assessment was modified to having two stage-3 ITAs and associated OCAs as part of the portfolio review process.
- Clinical Competence Portfolio Review (CCPR) program design finalised, and I-OCA assessment developed for implementation in the workplace.
- Critical Essay Question review completed with options for future modelling and consultation.
- Quality improvement in the operation processes for MCQ and MEQ undertaken.
- Scoping for online delivery of MEQ progressed.
- Scholarly Project policies and procedures revised to better reflect objectives and exemptions.
- Psychotherapy Written Case resources for trainees and supervisors developed.

Digital Education Services

- Final release of Site Coordinator of Training and Trainee Groups.
- Commenced integration to import Specialist International Medical Graduate Data to support the future release of InTrain for SIMG, Address Picker and address validation service, and ongoing development of SIMG placements.
- Assessments: Clinical Competency Assessment (CCA) applications; Case-based Discussion (CbD) Assessor dashboard and marking; various updates including Break in Training form, and the addition of Modified Monash Model (MMM) rating to posts.
- Updates to certificates, In-Training Assessments (ITAs), Post accreditation.
- 29 new episodes of Psych Matters podcasts released.

Report of the Corporate Governance And Risk Committee.

The Chair of the Corporate Governance and Risk Committee (CGRC), Associate Professor Melanie Turner, presented the Report of the CGRC and highlighted its key initiatives in 2023, including:

- Updating the College's Undertaking in Relation to Confidential Information and Conflict of Interest Management.
- Developed a Meeting Code of Conduct and committee meeting templates.
- Considered the results of the 2022 Trainee Exit Survey and recommendations to improve perceptions of trainee representation on College committees.
- Oversaw the Board's 2023 President-Elect election and Casual Vacancy Director appointment process.
- Reviewed election documentation ahead of the 2024 elected Director elections.
- Oversaw the nomination and election process for Committee positions – 809 positions were filled, and an election plan was implemented to support timely decision-making and extensions to ensure committee operation continuity.

- Twice undertook a comprehensive review of College Risk Registers and implemented a process for the Board's regular review of extreme and high risks.

Report of the Membership Engagement Committee

The Chair of the Membership Engagement Committee (MEC), Dr Mark Lawrence, presented the Report of the MEC and highlighted key initiatives in 2023, including:

- Launch of two new Action Plans - Member Wellbeing Action Plan and Gender Equity Action Plan.
- Launch of the RANZCP Member Support Program.
- Supporting trainees and improving engagement.
- Promoting good cultures in medicine and psychiatry.
- Addressing the needs of Fellows transitioning to retirement.
- Implementing a more equitable training fee structure.
- Improving information on wellbeing resources and supports for trainees.
- Assisting trainee representatives in the development of a new two-year engagement strategy.
- Improving orientation and welcome processes for new trainees.

Report of the Practice, Policy And Partnerships Committee

The Chair of the Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee (PPPC), Dr Warren Kealy-Bateman, presented the Report of the PPPC and highlighted key initiatives in 2023 in the following areas:

- Responded to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announcement on the permitted use of psychedelics.
- Delivered the final report of the Future Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines Steering Group.
- Updated Position Statement 103: The role of psychiatrists in working with Trans and Gender Diverse people.
- Updated Private Practice Resources.
- Awarded \$34,000 through Beverley Raphael New Investigator Grant and the Early Research Career Grant to trainees and Fellows via the Committee for Research.
- Coordinated 110 submissions to consultations.
- Published 20 new and updated bi-national policies and practice guidance.
- Worked with the Community Collaboration Committee developing the Lived Experience Strategy.
- Provided \$87,712 to support the training pathways of 13 trainees who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and 8 trainees who identify as Māori.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee championed the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Te Kaunihera supported the development of the apology to survivors of the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit.

Report of the Appointed Director, Trainee

The Chair of the Trainee Advisory Council (TAC), Dr Ava Carter, presented the report of the TAC and highlighted trainee engagement and key initiatives in 2023 in the following areas:

- Designed and developed a new three-year trainee engagement strategy.
- Involved in the process of designing and implementing the new program of assessments.
- Feedback on the Clinical Competency Assessment contributed to the creation of the Modified Portfolio Review.

- Worked with the College to meet re-accreditation requirements set by the Australian Medical Council.
- Continued to support efforts to address issues with the culture of medicine, reflected through the annual Ahpra Medical Training Survey results.
- Initiated a bi-monthly trainee column in Australasian Psychiatry.
- Supported the College Board in implementing a fairer and more equitable fee structure.
- Advised on projects to improve new trainees' orientation and onboarding into the College.
- Committed to keeping trainee voting rights squarely on the reform agenda.
- Aligned our work with the future College Lived Experience Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Resolution 2: Receipt of the 2023 Annual Report of the RANZCP Board

[It was resolved on a show of hands that the 2023 Annual Report of the RANZCP Board be accepted.](#)

6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee (FC) Report was presented by Finance Committee Chair, Dr Sue Mackersey, and highlighted the following key activities of the Committee from 2023:

- 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, 2024 budget, and several College business cases.
- Oversight of the College Investment Subcommittee.
- Reviewed investments with external advisor JBWere (in accordance with RANZCP Investment Policy).

2023 Financial Report and Auditor's Report

Dr Mackersey presented the 2023 financial results summary, which included:

- The operating deficit for the 2023 Financial year was \$1.21m; working Capital Ratio was 1.5; and net assets (total assets being cash, receivables, investments and properties minus total liabilities) was \$46.85m.
- The 2023 operating results were better than budgeted.
- The majority of income and expenditure is derived from the Specialist Training Program (STP).
- The major projects with external funding, including: Specialist training placements and support, \$20.9m; Training more Specialist Doctors in Tasmania (Tasmania Project), \$0.9m; and Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) – STP, \$5.0m.
- The investment portfolio with JBWere at 31 December 2023: valued, \$12.1m; movement in the fair value, realised losses of \$0.2m and unrealised gains of \$1.5m; and dividends and distributions, \$437k.
- The operating bank account interest at 31 December 2023: \$386k
- An independent valuer provided a desktop revaluation of RANZCP properties in 2023 and the value as at 31 December 2023 was \$25.28m.
- The College Fees were increased by 8% in 2024 due to significant inflation. Fee increases are generally lower than CPI, and the 2024 increase follows a two-year fee freeze in 2021 and 2022 and modest increase in 2023.

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee (AC) Report was presented by Audit Committee Chair, Dr Astha Tomar. The following key matters addressed by the Committee were highlighted:

- Ensured compliance with relevant statutory financial reporting requirements. Changes to Australian Accounting Standards were reflected in the RANZCP 2023 financial accounts where applicable.
- Oversaw the financial audit process and reviewed the Auditor's Closing Report for 2023.
- As cyber security is a significant risk for all organisations, the College's information technology security and controls were reviewed, and a cybersecurity company providing monitoring and detection services to the College provided regular reports.
- 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 Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 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 2023. 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 3: Financial and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

It was resolved on a show of hands that the Financial Report and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 of the RANZCP be received.

RANZCP Board Members from 31 May 2024

The President announced the 2024-2025 RANZCP Board:

- Dr Elizabeth Moore – President (2023-2025)
- Dr Astha Tomar – President-Elect (2023-2025)
- Dr Mark Lawrence – Elected Director (2024-2026)
- Dr Michelle Atchison – Elected Director (2024-2026)
- Professor Steve Kisely – Elected Director (2024-2026)
- A/Prof Melanie Turner – Elected Director (2024-2026)
- Dr Angelo Virgona – Elected Director (2024-2026)
- Dr Ava Carter – Appointed Director, Trainee (2024-2025)

7. 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:

Dr Rhonda Buskell, NSW

Comment: Dr Buskell received the 25-year (membership milestone) gift from the College and wondered if it is necessary or a good use of College resources.

Dr Moore thanked Dr Buskell for the comment, indicating that many members have thanked the College for the gift, and that it is good to have an alternative point of view.

A/Prof. Sathya Rao, VIC

Question: A/Prof Rao queried the status of the application for a Section of Personality Disorders submitted to the College a few years ago, noting the Faculty, Section, and Network Review that is currently taking place. There is a lot of confusion about diagnosable personal disorder complex trauma

amongst the fellowship and the College is missing out on potential advocacy and education. A/Prof Rao sought a timeline for a response for the application for this section.

Dr Moore advised that the Faculty, Section, and Network Review has been completed, and was presented the Members Advisory Council (MAC) the previous weekend. The Review has not given a clear way forward and the Board will continue to work with MAC on a way forward. Dr Moore indicated that a timeframe cannot be provided however gave assurance that it will be a priority and A/Prof Rao will be kept informed.

Dr Roderick McKay, NSW

Question: Dr McKay sought an update on implications and risks to the College related to the Kruk Report, an update on the number of AMC conditions, and how the Board is progressing in controlling any associated risks.

Dr Moore advised that there are a number of risks to the College in both the Kruk Report, the National Health Practitioners Ombudsman Report, and AMC recommendations and conditions. The College is working with the AMC in addressing the conditions, which is being overseen through the Education Committee, and members will be updated as conditions are completed.

In terms of the Kruk Report, the College is considering its processes and policies and implications for an expedited SIMG pathway. It is important to note that the full medical SIMG pathway is not within the purview of the College. The College is willing and able to assess overseas trained psychiatrists, and international medical graduates with specialist qualifications, as the College is the best assessor of psychiatry international qualifications.

Prof. Nagesh Pai, NSW

Question: Prof Pai raised concerns regarding academic psychiatrists in Australia, noting that a large number of academic psychiatrists are retiring. The Medical Dean's group is planning on replacing psychiatrists with mental health practitioners. Prof Pai queried what this means for psychiatrists, if psychiatrists are going to get further endangered, and what the College can do.

Dr Moore advised that Professor Neeraj Gill is leading the College's Academic Psychiatry Steering Group to address some of these issues, and that members will be kept informed.

A/Prof Robert Parker, NT

Question: A/Prof Parker followed up on his question from the 2023 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.

Dr Moore advised that the College did meet with the WPA and APA and raised this matter. Both organisations issued statements similar to apologies however were unable to offer copies of these statements to the College.

Members were thanked for their attendance and support during 2023.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm AEST with Dr Kealy-Bateman, Dr O'Connor, and Dr Mackersey reflecting on their time as a Board Director.

Appendix: RANZCP Members attending the 2024 Annual General Meeting

First Name	Last Name	State or New Zealand	Member Type (Fellow, Affiliate or Associate)
Ava	Carter	ACT	Associate
Emma	Crampin	WA	Fellow
Marcia	Fogarty	SA	Fellow
Ameze	Agbonzikilo	ACT	Fellow
Beth	Kotzé	NSW	Fellow
Astha	Tomar	VIC	Fellow
Steve	Kisely	QLD	Fellow
Ehsan	Nikrad	VIC	Fellow
Srirekha	Vadasseri	VIC	Fellow
Paul	Fitzgerald	ACT	Fellow
Prasoon	Gupte	QLD	Fellow
James	Simonsson	NZ	Associate
Vinay	Lakra	VIC	Fellow
Sujaya	Sringeri	NSW	Fellow
Amanda	Young	VIC	Fellow
Sanil	Rege	VIC	Fellow
Ann	Solar	WA	Fellow
John	Allan	QLD	Fellow
Robyn	Bradley	NSW	Fellow
Sue	Mackersey	NZ	Fellow
Nick	O'Connor	NSW	Fellow
Elizabeth	Moore	ACT	Fellow
Angelo	Virgona	NSW	Fellow
Paul	Friend	NSW	Fellow
Barry	Rowe	SA	Fellow
Roderick	McKay	NSW	Fellow
Robert	Parker	NT	Fellow
Marcus	Tabart	NT	Fellow
Patrick	Clarke	SA	Fellow
Victor	Storm	NSW	Fellow
Matthews	Banda	NZ	Affiliate
Udaya	Balakrishna	QLD	Fellow
Rees	Tapsell	NZ	Fellow
Linda	Tran	NSW	Fellow
Christopher	Lilley	QLD	Fellow
Janet	Bayley	QLD	Fellow
Carol	Harvey	VIC	Fellow
Kerryn	Rubin	VIC	Fellow
Mimi	Xu	NSW	Fellow
Mark	Lawrence	NZ	Fellow
Warren	Kealy-Bateman	NSW	Fellow
Melanie	Turner	NSW	Fellow
Ian	Korbel	NSW	Fellow
Murray	Patton	NZ	Fellow
Trung	Doan	ACT	Associate

First Name	Last Name	State or New Zealand	Member Type (Fellow, Affiliate or Associate)
Michelle	Atchison	SA	Fellow
Katherine	Jones	NSW	Associate
Guy	Windsor	NSW	Fellow
Joanne	Ferguson	NSW	Fellow
Rhonda	Buskell	NSW	Fellow
John	Robertson	VIC	Fellow
Richard	Harvey	VIC	Fellow
Dermot	Brennan	WA	Associate
Manjula	O'Connor	VIC	Fellow
Andrew	Christensen	QLD	Fellow
Sathya	Rao	VIC	Fellow
Paul	Robertson	VIC	Fellow
Imbi	Ehvard	SA	Associate
John	Lambe	NZ	Fellow
Nagesh	Pai	NSW	Fellow
Susanna	Every-Palmer	NZ	Fellow
Amit	Banerjee	WA	Fellow
Maryssa	Portelli	NSW	Fellow
George	She	NSW	Fellow
Geertsema	Jan	QLD	Fellow
Deepa	Singhal	ACT	Fellow
David	Copolov	VIC	Fellow
Mark	Shillito	NSW	Fellow
Amirsalar	Rashidanfar	NSW	Fellow
Andrew	McClure	NSW	Fellow
Neeraj	Gill	QLD	Fellow
Kosala	Amaranayake	VIC	Fellow
Nicola	Campbell	QLD	Associate