

Annual Review 2024

Excellence and equity in the
provision of mental healthcare.



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists



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.

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 all RANZCP members.

We affirm their ongoing contribution to the improvement of mental healthcare for all people.

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Note: All committee member lists current as of 31 December 2024.

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Vision, values, purpose and priorities

Our vision



Excellence and equity in the provision of mental healthcare.

Our purpose



To support our members, advance psychiatry, and advocate for the best mental health outcomes for our communities.

Our values

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Action

Our priorities

1. Training, education and learning that increases capability and quality
2. Advocacy and collaboration to improve access and equity
3. Connected and contemporary College for community and member benefit

2024 Membership

The information in this section is correct as of 6 January 2025.

Who we are

Members of the RANZCP comprise Fellows, Associates (trainees), Affiliates and International Corresponding Members.

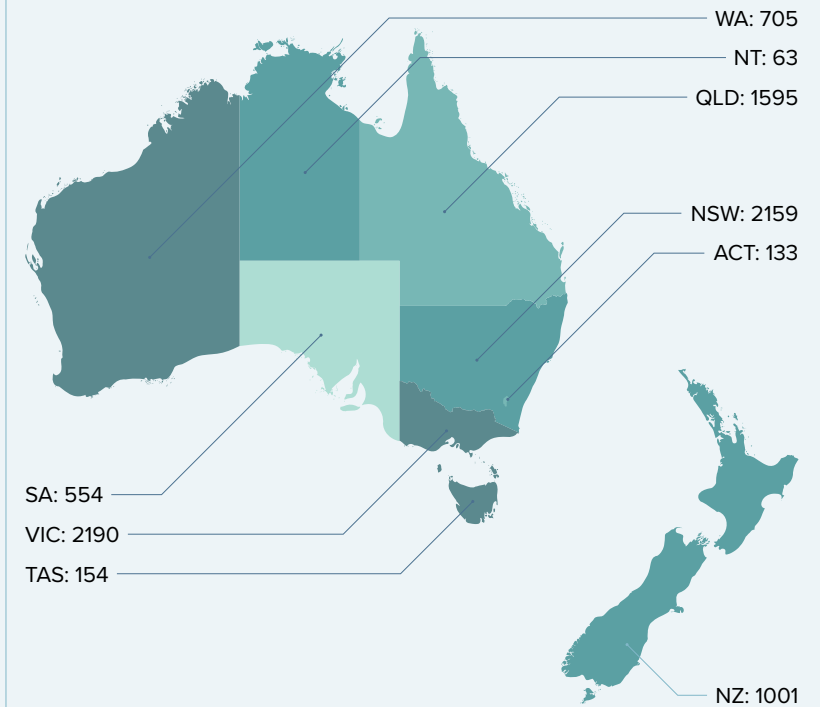
Members are based throughout Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as in 33 other countries worldwide.

Geographic distribution of membership

Membership numbers

Member type	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	Overseas	TOTAL
Affiliate	-	3	-	-	-	1	8	4	16	255	2	273
Associate (trainee)	39	658	30	479	153	44	671	197	2271	246	3	2520
Fellow*	94	1498	33	1116	401	109	1511	504	5266	500	155	5921
International Corresponding Member											16	16
Total	133	2159	63	1595	554	154	2190	705	7553	1001	176	8730

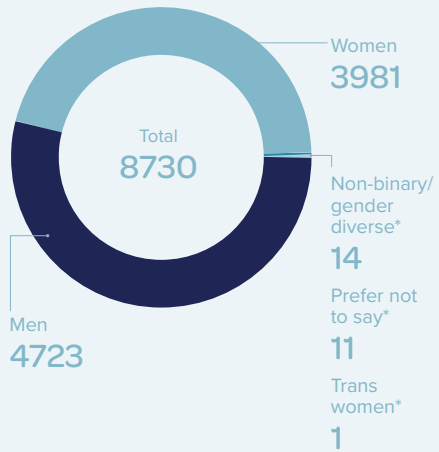
*Includes retired Fellows



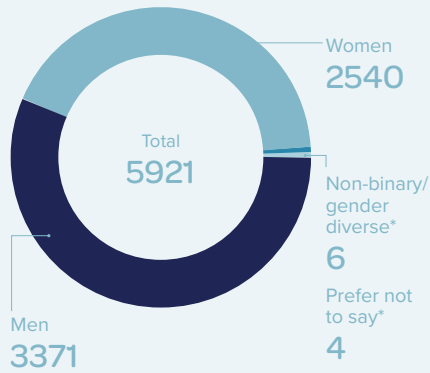
Gender distribution of membership

*As currently recorded

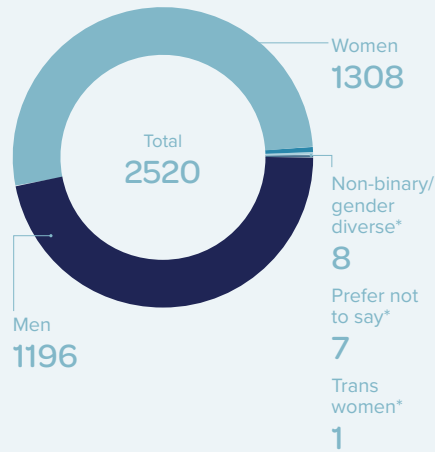
Overall membership



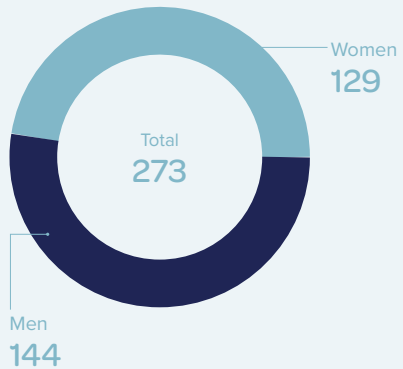
Fellows



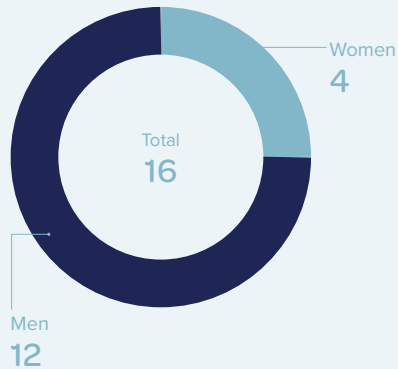
Associates



Affiliates

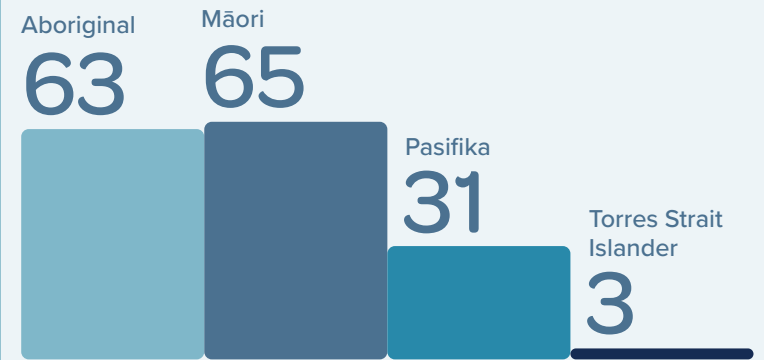


International Corresponding Members



Indigenous information

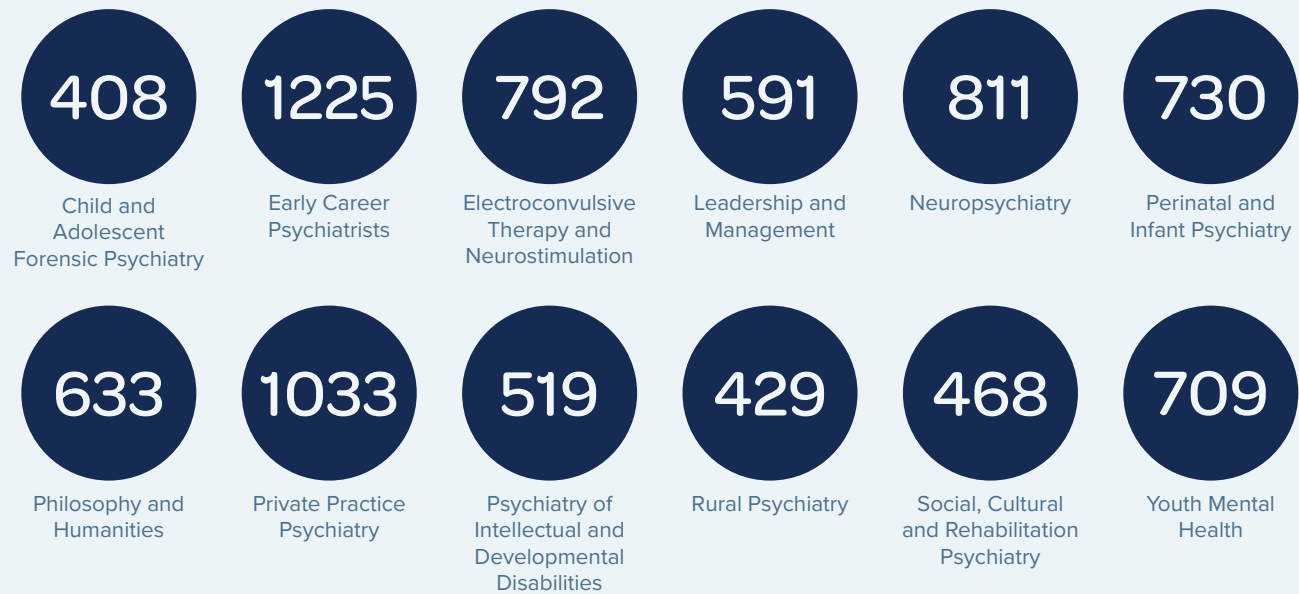
Members may voluntarily inform the College if they identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori and/or Pasifika.



Faculty membership



Section membership



Network membership



Membership at a glance

5.6%↑

Overall membership has increased by 5.6% in 2024

8.9%↑

The number of Associates (trainees) has increased by 8.9%

287

287 new Fellows in 2024

50% ♀

Women make up 50% of new Fellows

29-74

New Fellows in 2024 ranged in age from 29 to 74

449

449 new trainees enrolled in 2024

50% ♀

Women make up 50% of new trainees

50+

61% of Fellows are aged 50+

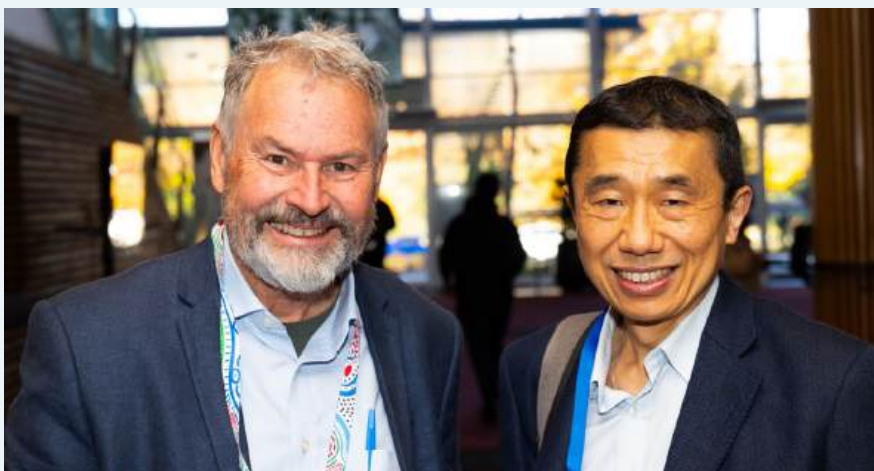
25

Our youngest member is 25 years of age

98

Our oldest member is 98 years of age





Training intake 2024

Below is the distribution of our training intake in 2024* by Fellowship Zone.

New trainee intake

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUST	NZ	Overall
Cohort 2024	6	123	6	97	25	12	115	33	417	32	449

*Correct as at 6 January 2025. The 2024 training cohort is calculated from February 2024–February 2025.

New Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) intake

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUST	NZ	Overall	Percentage increase from 2023
2024 (Partial Comparability)	0	7	0	2	0	1	34	5	49	0	49	10.20%
2024 (Substantial Comparability)	3	3	7	9	4	3	25	18	72	7	79	77.21%
TOTAL	3	10	7	11	4	4	59	23	121	7	128	51.56%

*Numbers are based on dates commenced on the Specialist Pathway.

New trainee gender distribution

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUST	NZ	Overall
Men	1	67	3	50	11	4	51	15	202	16	218
Non-binary/ gender diverse									2		2
Prefer not to say									3	1	4
Women	5	55	3	45	13	7	64	18	210	15	225

*For 2024, the College is reporting non-binary / gender diverse identity on a national level only, rather than by jurisdiction.

President's report

This year has been a testament to all that we can achieve through determination, collaboration and commitment. The College welcomed 287 new Fellows, who will contribute greatly to the profession and the people we serve. We must all continue to advocate for everyone in our communities to receive the best possible, person-centred, evidence-informed mental health care in a supportive, ethical, non-judgmental, and culturally safe manner when they need it most.

Looking back over 2024: Dr Nick O'Connor, A/Prof. Melanie Turner, Dr Sue Mackersey and Dr Warren Kealy-Bateman concluded their terms on the Board, and I thank them all for their incredible leadership, expert guidance and dedication to the College and community across our nations. I congratulate Dr Michelle Atchison, Dr Angelo Virgona, Prof. Steve Kisely (to September) and Prof. Richard Newton (from September) on their appointment to the Board. Together, we will continue to respond to the challenges before us, working with governments to increase our workforce to meet community needs. We will maintain our role in standards setting for psychiatric care, and advocate for excellence and equity in the delivery of mental health care.

In May, we launched our [Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan](#) for 2024–26, which is the continuation of our commitment to reconciliation and of meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to call out misinformation and discrimination, and to enable our First Nations voices to truly be heard. It acknowledges our role as allies and our commitment to a continuous, united journey of encouraging speaking, hearing, seeing, learning, truth telling and deep reflection. Grounded in mutual respect, trust and understanding, we pledge to increase Indigenous representation within our workforce, and incorporate Indigenous perspectives into our policies and practices. Our Reconciliation Action Plan outlines a comprehensive framework for embedding reconciliation into the fabric of our organisation.

The College delivered high-quality conferences, events and learning opportunities for members across our two countries, including Congress 2024 in Canberra, the 60th anniversary of our first-ever Congress (also held in Canberra). From humble beginnings of almost 400 members at the time of incorporation in 1963, to the College of over 8,500 members today, nearly 2,000 delegates attended in person and virtually. Congress is an important platform for respectful debate, where arguments can be presented and facts can be examined professionally and respectfully, as peers and colleagues, in a safe and inclusive place for all.



Our ongoing work to update our program of assessments to be both educationally valid and meet the needs of our community is being guided by members, and I thank everyone involved, particularly our Bi-national Committee for Trainees (BCT) representatives and Trainees' Advisory Council (TAC) members.

The College continued to enhance our CPD Program, making it easier for members to meet their CPD requirements as mandated by the Australian Medical Council (AMC).

We completed significant projects, including the Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review, the development of a new framework for leadership in psychiatry and the review into Academic Psychiatry. We launched the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry which will enhance access to skilled mental health care across Australia. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all involved for leading this work.

Our policy and advocacy reach increased, harnessing the expertise of many members across a broad range of clinical and policy areas. Our pillars of advocacy are workforce, through the lifespan and trauma. Childhood trauma increases the risk of mental illness that we see every day, and with past conflicts and ongoing wars around the world, now, more than ever, we must support each other with understanding and compassion in order to best support others.

We have also progressed our Lived Experience Strategy with advice from our Community Collaboration Committee about timing for authentic engagement and change.

My profound gratitude goes to all those who work and volunteer in countless ways at the College – by participating in committees, supervising trainees, responding to surveys and consultations, and taking up leadership roles within the College. Your immense contributions of time, expert opinion and insights have been critical across our activities. Your dedication makes a difference.

My thanks also to our outgoing CEO, Ms Sharon McGowan, AM for leading the College over the last 2 years, as we welcome Professor Andrew Way, AM as our interim CEO. To all my fellow Board members, your wise counsel as we grow our diverse organisation to meet the needs of members and community is greatly appreciated.

Dr Elizabeth Moore
President



Dr Elizabeth Moore, RANZCP President with (clockwise from top left) - Dr Sue Mackersey, past Board Director and acting Chair of the RANZCP Gender Equity Subcommittee; Sharon McGowan, AM, former CEO of the RANZCP; A/Prof Sophie Davison, Australian Government Chief Psychiatrist; and Aunty Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal elder.



CEO's report

I have had the privilege of supporting the College as Interim CEO since December 2024 and with recruitment of the next CEO well underway, my tenure with the organisation will be short.

During 2024, prior to my appointment, the College made significant strides in its strategic journey to improve the equity and excellence in the provision of mental healthcare. Important advances were made with the launch of our new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The appointment of our inaugural Cultural Advisors was pivotal to this listening and learning experience.

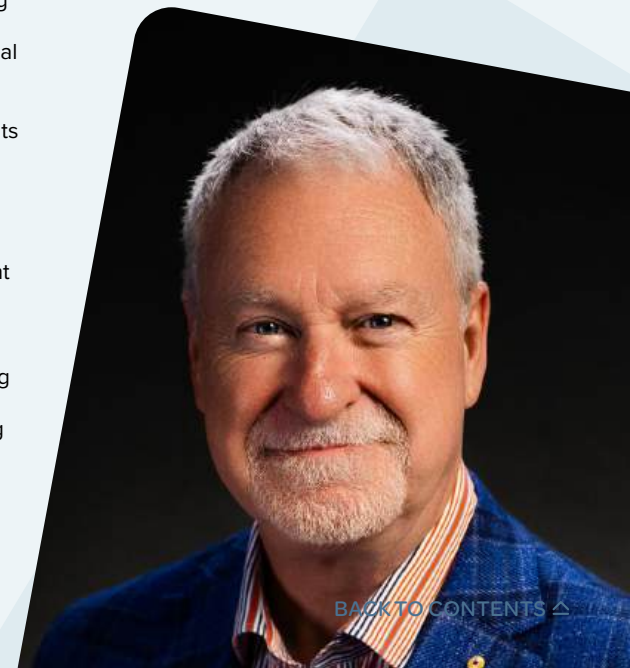
Another shared goal for 2024 was to elevate the voice of Lived Experience in the College, and work commenced on the implementation of our first Lived Experience strategy. This strategy aims to integrate the voice of Lived Experience into all aspects of the work at the College. Two dedicated Lived Experience Advisors have now been appointed to support this work.

Supporting our vision for equity and excellence in the provision of mental healthcare, this year we launched the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry which provides a program to upskill GPs, rural generalists, and other medical staff who are working to improve access to mental healthcare. This flexible training program features remote supervision, enabling participants to 'train in place' and to support regional and rural clinicians in accessing this innovative development pathway.

Our Rural Pathway team demonstrated that scarcity breeds innovation, with the development of guidelines to enable RANZCP Fellowship Training program applicants from a rural origin/ background to be prioritised in the application process. Establishing and providing seed funding for seven new Rural Directors of Training roles has also borne fruit with all seven posts securing continuing jurisdictional funding.

During the year we made further progress towards achieving the recommendations of the Australian Medical Council (AMC), however more work remains. Completion of these recommendations will see ongoing improvements to the content and delivery of the education and training of the next generation of psychiatrists.

2025 is the last year in the College's current strategic period. Already, work is being done to assess how well the College has met its strategic priorities around education and training, advocacy, meeting members' needs, and assessing the College's capacity to undertake necessary reforms to ensure a sustainable and forward-looking College – whilst improving member engagement and being responsible with our resources.



The retention, attraction and recruitment of a psychiatrist workforce remains an enduring challenge for many jurisdictions. Across our bi-national College many of our Fellows are facing the daily challenges of striving for excellence in healthcare whilst having insufficient resources to do so. Our members in New South Wales have borne a substantial burden in this respect, as they continue to strive to engage governments in the case for investment in mental health services for the benefit and wellbeing of the community. This is a high profile but not unique challenge.

Mental illness carries a high burden of disease in both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. To truly shift the dial, we all have a role to play in amplifying the importance of good mental healthcare, advocating for the availability of services to help those who need it most regardless of where they live, and reducing stigma and discrimination.

My heartfelt thanks to our members, Board, committees and staff for being so open and generous with your expertise, support and time.

Prof. Andrew Way, AM
Interim Chief Executive Officer

“To truly shift the dial, we all have a role to play in amplifying the importance of good mental healthcare, advocating for the availability of services to help those who need it most regardless of where they live, and reducing stigma and discrimination.”

Trainee engagement and involvement

A foundational feature of what the Trainees' Advisory Council and the Bi-national Committee for Trainees achieved in 2024 was developing the right platform to effectively represent and act on behalf of trainees bi-nationally. These seedlings of new governance sewn just two years ago have now germinated into two capable structures upon which we can build for the coming years. Even as the landscape of training continues to evolve, our strong foundations have enabled us to find our footing and thrive.

Agility is never easy within a complex College, but our capacity to initiate, respond and act where needed was illustrated throughout 2024:

- A survey conducted by the BCT to gauge trainee satisfaction and assess supervisors and equity in the Psychotherapy Written Case environment due to poor resourcing Australia-wide.
- Inputs into the College's new Change Management Policy.
- Contributing to the I-OCA Oversight Panel, EPA and Supervisor Working Groups and engaging in educational development work and reviews.
- Providing feedback on the development of an over-arching Fellowship Training Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

2024 also marked the second year of our trainee engagement strategy – designed by representatives and reflective of what we have heard trainees want, such as:

- We took our trainee engagement strategy beyond just words on paper through our new orientation welcome webinars, and delivering nearly 400 welcome packs to all new first year trainees. These packs included a welcome letter from our President, a gift, plus a QR code directing trainees to the [Getting started as a new trainee](#) web content.
- A new Peer Support Program designed to support rural and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander trainees was established, enabling late-stage trainee peers to provide informal support.

- Improvements were made to trainee communications, including adjusting the Training and Assessment newsletter format and better tagging of web content for trainees. We sought input from trainees on assessment information communications, and the development of assessment proposals.
- We contributed to a refreshed [Support for trainees and SIMGs](#) webpage and assisted with the design of a dedicated Trainee Support Needs Survey – the findings will help us identify how we can better support trainee well-being.
- Enhanced transparency of what we discuss in our meetings was enabled through publishing access to TAC and BCT meeting papers for every trainee to see, together with new web content featuring who trainee representatives are and how to contact them.

The continuation of the 'trainee takeover' edition of *Australasian Psychiatry* was a positive step in this space, in addition to the increased



number of trainee journal editors. Thanks to Dr Michael Taran, Dr Fiona Wilkes, Dr Ahnoor Benipal, and Dr Alanna Cockburn for coming on board. We have also had more trainees appear on the *Psych Matters* podcast, helping to bring the voice of our trainee community to a wider audience.

There is much to achieve in the year ahead, with trainee feedback gathered in 2024 helping shape many of our actions in 2025. 259 trainees shared their views in the Member Engagement Survey, which focused on themes such as relationships with the College, most-valued member services and benefits, views on communications, and personal engagement and sentiments. We look forward to addressing the recommendations from this survey as another driver of change based on direct trainee feedback. 427 trainees and 280 supervisors also described their personal training experiences in the Burden of Assessment Survey, providing the College with some clear messages that will contribute to a better Fellowship Program. We look forward to reading the outcomes of the survey in early 2025.

With every challenge faced, the TAC and BCT have been finding our feet and establishing a stronger foundation for the journey ahead. The groundwork that we have laid provides us with a path into the new year that is rich with possibilities, and we are excited to see how our collective efforts will bear fruit in 2025 and beyond.

Dr Ava Carter
Appointed Director, Trainee and Chair, Trainee Advisory Council

Dr Georgia Ramsden
Chair, Bi-National Committee for Trainees

Dr Elise Witter
Deputy Chair, Bi-National Committee for Trainees



Supporting First Nations' mental health

The College's third Reconciliation Action Plan was launched during our annual Congress in Canberra. It is intended to emphasise the College's commitment to increase meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and by doing so, address barriers for these communities in accessing mental health care.

It sets out 20 actions with 91 deliverables to be achieved over the next three years. By year end, 37 of the deliverables had been completed with 18 more in progress.

Te Kaunihera has focused on increasing support for Māori trainees by providing regular group cultural supervision sessions. The committee held its annual wananga for Māori psychiatrists, trainees, junior doctors, and medical students at Horouta Marae in Porirua. As of January 2025, the College had 65 Māori members including Trainees.

Both Te Kaunihera and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee have provided input into the Cultural Safety Training Plan Steering Group which is a foundational step in the College's progression of developing and implementing appropriate cultural safety components within the training program.

Additionally, both committees welcomed new community members to their midst: Te Kaunihera has two new community members along with a new co-chair, Wayne Blissett, and the new co-chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Mental Health Committee is Kim Mulholland.

The committees worked closely to develop a proposal to update the wording in the RANZCP Constitution to recognise their communities and their mental health needs, and the ongoing work of First Nations' psychiatrists. This discussion began with a joint hui during Congress, where members of both committees debated the level of wording they wanted to see reflected in the Constitution.

In subsequent individual committee meetings, the committees refined the proposal and reached final agreement on proposed additions which they

believe appropriately acknowledge psychiatrists and trainees of Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent, their work, and the communities they care for.

In November, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee hosted the College's first annual cultural immersion event in Melbourne. The session brought together 20 people from the College's three partnership committees to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture. The 2025 immersion event will be hosted by Te Kaunihera in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland).

The addition of two culturally-focused roles within the College in April increased the connection to First Nations communities. These roles are both specifically identified and are intended to pave the way for the College to grow its First Nations workforce.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, our Kaiārahi Māori Mahue Albert, works closely with Te Kaunihera, our kaumatua, and other staff to help everyone involved with the College gain and grow their understanding of tikanga. Mahue was welcomed to the College with a mihi whakatau led by kaumatua, Matua Ron Baker, and attended by the College's New Zealand team.

In Australia, the College's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Mental Health Liaison Officer, Chanelle Martin, is creating new pathways and connections between First Nations trainees and the College. A proud Wathuaorong woman living on Yuin Country, Chanelle has instigated a range of new communication channels for First Nations trainees to seek guidance and support from the College, and is playing a key role in supporting College staff as they increase their cultural knowledge.

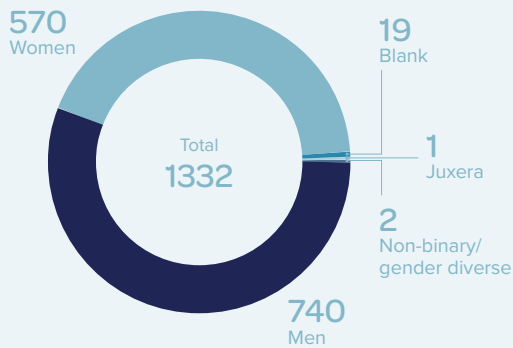


Gender equity in psychiatry

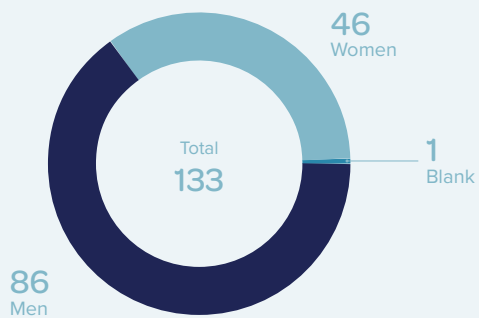
The information in this section is correct as of 6 January 2025.

RANZCP Committee Membership (including chairs)

RANZCP Committee Membership

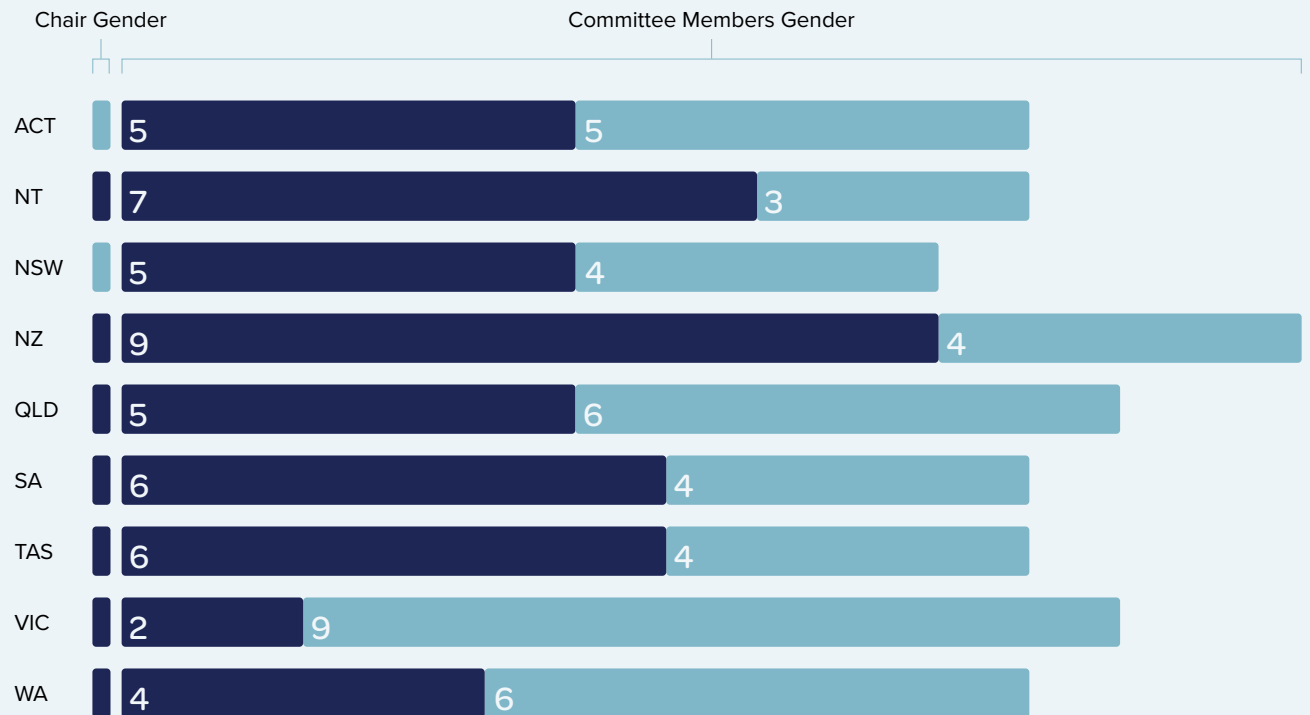


RANZCP Committee chair roles



- Men
- Women
- Blank
- Juxera
- Non-binary/gender diverse

Australian Branch Committees and New Zealand National Committee



- Men
- Women

Note that for 2024, the College is reporting non-binary/gender diverse identity at a national committee membership level only.

Therefore some gender data is not displayed to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

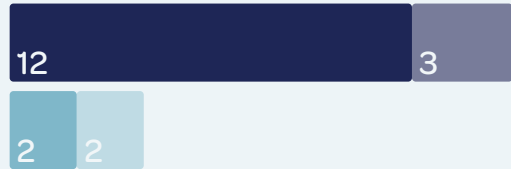
The above data only includes formal committees and networks which hold elections and excludes some committees with ex-officio membership (such as the Members' Advisory Council and the Branch Chairs' Forum), as well as time-limited Advisory Groups, Working Groups and Steering Groups. 139 committees were included in this data set. The above data also includes Board Directors that hold roles on Australian Branch and New Zealand National Committees.

RANZCP and clinical leadership positions

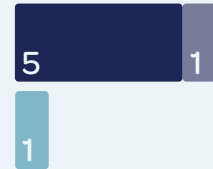
RANZCP Board

Position	Men	Women
President		1
President-Elect		1
Directors	3	2
Appointed Director, Trainee		1

RANZCP Board Elected Director 2024



RANZCP Board Elected Director, Casual Vacancy 2024



● Men Candidates ● Women Candidates ● Men Appointed ● Women Appointed

Directors of Training / Directors of Advanced Training combined

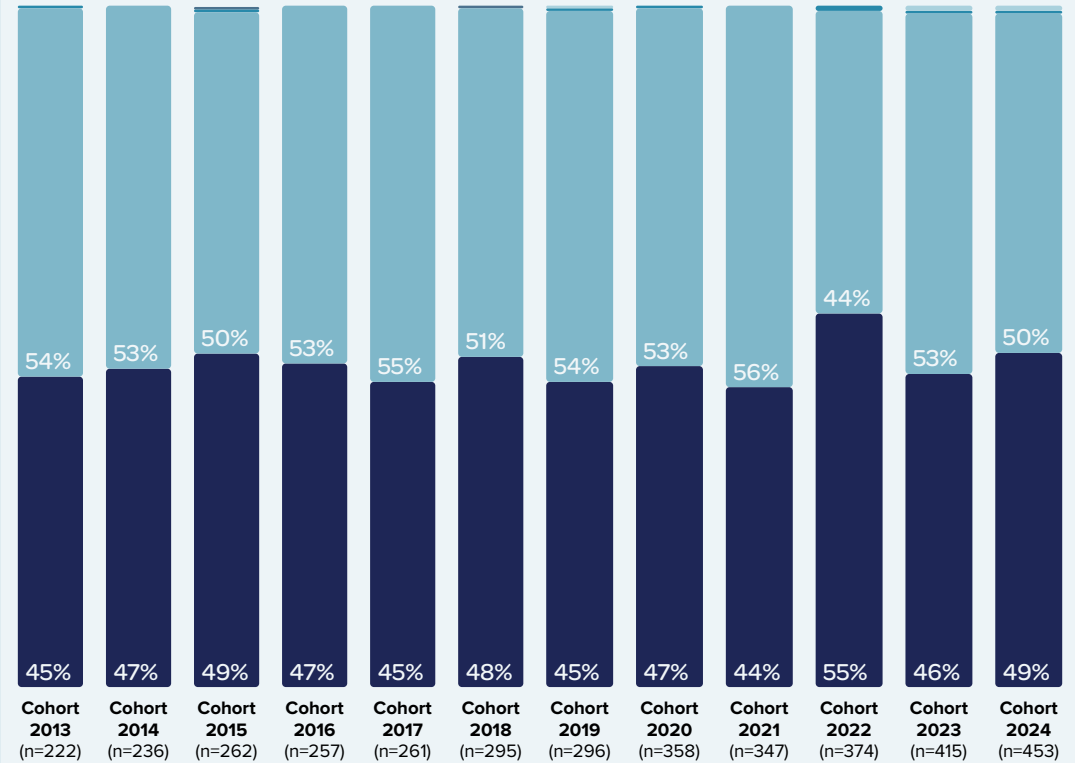


● Men ● Women

Fellowship program enrolment

- Men
- Women
- Blank
- Juxera
- Non-binary/gender diverse

RANZCP intakes by cohort and gender



*Discrepancies in the 2016 and 2017 intake data compared to prior reports from adjustments made in the RANZCP system.

*All the above gender data correct as at 6 January 2025

New trainee intake gender distribution by state/territory for Cohort 2024

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUST	NZ	Overall
Men	1	67	3	50	11	4	51	15	202	16	218
Non-binary/ gender diverse									2		2
Prefer not to say									3	1	4
Women	5	55	3	45	13	7	64	18	210	15	225

*The 2024 training cohort is calculated from February 2024–February 2025. For 2024, the College is reporting non-binary/gender diverse identity on a national level only, rather than by jurisdiction.

Average time to complete the program by gender

(Considering only trainees from the 2012 program)



Keynote speakers

RANZCP 2024 Congress



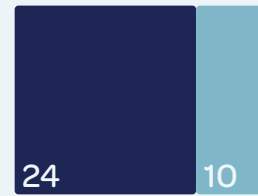
RANZCP 2024 New Zealand Conference



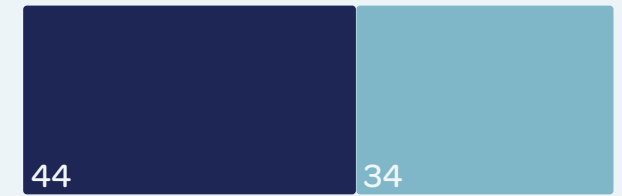
● Men ● Women

RANZCP Journals

Australasian Psychiatry editorial team 2024:



Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry editorial team 2024:



● Men ● Women

Improving gender equity in psychiatry is one part of ensuring a more diverse, inclusive and representative future for psychiatry.

As of September 2024, fifteen of the 36 actions set out in the [Gender Equity Action Plan](#) have either been completed or are completed and ongoing.

Advocacy for the profession: our work in 2024

Workforce challenges across Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia were the critical focus of the College's advocacy efforts, in recognition of the increasing levels of complexity faced by members working in both the public and private health systems and the impacts on people needing care.

To set the agenda and ensure the issue attracted attention, the College called on members to share their concerns via a survey. This data provided point-in-time material to spotlight the key issues members were experiencing, including burnout and workforce shortages, and it was used in a targeted media push in January.

Almost 300 individual news stories highlighting the potential impact for patients were printed and broadcast by mid-February. The media push was followed by the publication of an open letter to the Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, in the Sydney Morning Herald which was signed by over 500 Australian psychiatrists.

The letter called on federal, state and territory governments to invest in growing the psychiatry workforce urgently and sustainably. As a result of the campaign, numerous state and federal politicians contacted the College and individual members in support. Minister Butler's office was continually receptive to discussions as further workforce issues arose.

However, one of the Government's mitigations to combat the workforce shortage was to develop a fast-track accreditation process for doctors from some countries, and this prompted collective concern from medical colleges including the RANZCP.

The RANZCP joined other colleges in an advocacy effort calling on the Federal Government to pause its efforts, and work with the colleges' existing processes and structures to ensure maintenance of standards and access to professional supports and education.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the College focused on producing a workforce pipeline report in

collaboration with Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, to assist the New Zealand Government in future planning for placement funding and numbers. The pipeline report will be used over the coming years as an advocacy tool for workforce matters.

Queensland (QLD), the Northern Territory (NT), and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) all held state elections during the year which provided additional opportunities for the College to engage with political leaders.

The QLD campaign focused on three key areas: calling for a plan to attract, train and retain the psychiatry workforce, to invest in 2000 community-based mental health staff and to fund an additional 374 new mental health inpatient beds, along with the refurbishment of 250 beds of the existing 1658 public hospital beds.

The ACT election was held in October and Canberrans returned the Australian Labor Party for a record seventh term. The College is fortunate to have established ongoing working relationships with Ministers and the Department of Health and will continue to work in identifying alignment of priorities.

In the NT, the Country Liberal Party secured a landslide victory in August, and by October the new Government had passed legislation to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10 – the first Australian jurisdiction to do so – prompting concerns from College members.

In response, an advocacy event was held in November in Darwin, inviting key stakeholders to work together to consider ways to reduce youth offending through prevention, early intervention, diversion, community-based

services, and reformed models of healthcare delivery. The NT Branch will continue to advocate to the Government in 2025 to consider other ways to address youth issues, outside the rigidity of the justice system.

RANZCP's 2024 Barton Pope Lecture, held in Adelaide in October, also focused on raising the age of criminal responsibility. This generated media interest from numerous outlets who relayed the College's concerns about the impact of justice reform on vulnerable youth.

In Victoria, the major advocacy work focused on the Department of Health's Training and Development Funding Review. The review will inform recommendations on the future of the scheme.

Workforce issues were also front of mind for New South Wales psychiatrists, where the College supported a collaboration with the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (ASMOF)

and the Mental Health Alliance to advocate to Government. The Branch also remained highly engaged with Minister Rose Jackson.

Lastly, the College participated in the Mental Health Sector Expo at Parliament House during Mental Health Week in October. The event, hosted by Mental Health Australia, featured over 45 mental health organisations and included Health Minister Mark Butler and MPs Kate Chaney and Helen Polley.

President-Elect Dr Astha Tomar and the College advocacy team engaged directly with Federal MPs to highlight the need for increased investment in the psychiatry workforce, as well as private practice concerns, and support for overseas-trained doctors. Dr Tomar also emphasised the importance of investment in complex mental health issues and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



LEFT: Dr Elizabeth Moore, RANZCP President at press conference, Parliament House (ACT)



LEFT: Monique Devereux, RANZCP Executive Manager Partnerships and Engagement and The Hon. Mark Butler, Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care



RANZCP awards

Each year, the College presents a variety of awards and grants to acknowledge outstanding achievements in psychiatry, recognise excellence in psychiatric research and training, and encourage new and emerging researchers.

The College is extremely proud of this year's winners, from those who have dedicated their lives to psychiatry, enabling improved patient care through innovation and mentorship; to those undertaking ground-breaking research to transform mental health care. There have also been awards given to trainees who have shown incredible potential and positivity for the future of psychiatry. The following awards were conferred in 2024.

The College Citation



Dr Kym Jenkins, AM

Established in 1986, the College Citation honours special service to the RANZCP or psychiatry.

Dr Jenkins received the College Citation for her outstanding contributions to psychiatry, for her role in developing the changing landscape of mental health, and for her extensive work in supporting the well-being of the medical profession.

Her service and contribution to the College, and psychiatry more widely, has been significant over the past 25 years in both the public and private sectors. She has been a mentor and role model for medical students, medical officers, registrars and psychiatrists. She has helped to create a movement to improve the culture within medicine, promote doctors' mental health and well-being, and work on key organisational and system changes to influence organisations such as the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), the AMC, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the RANZCP.

Having previously sat on the RANZCP's General Council from 2005–10, Dr Jenkins was elected to the College's inaugural Board in 2013 and was the first Chair of the newly-formed Membership Engagement Committee. She then went on to serve as President of the RANZCP between 2017 and 2019.

The Ian Simpson Award



Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, AM

The Ian Simpson Award honours College foundation member Dr Ian Simpson and acknowledges the most outstanding contribution to clinical psychiatry through service to patients and the community.

Professor Kulkarni received the award in recognition of her dedication to improving the quality of care for women with mental illness on a global scale. She has been a key figure in women's mental health research for over 30 years. She has founded and directs two research centres – HER Centre Australia and the Multidisciplinary Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre – and is also Head of Department of Psychiatry, School of Translational Medicine at Monash University's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences.

Notably, in the early years of her career as a junior consultant and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Fellow in schizophrenia research, Professor Kulkarni pioneered the use of estrogen as a new treatment in severe mental illness.

The Maddison Medallion



Dr Alisha Vara



Dr Benjamin Williams

In 2024, the Maddison Medallion was awarded to two recipients, Dr Alisha Vara and Dr Benjamin Williams.

First awarded in 1970, the Medallion recognises and encourages excellence in the study of psychiatry. It is awarded for meritorious performance during training and in the examinations leading to Fellowship of the RANZCP.

The Margaret Tobin Award



Associate Professor Vinay Lakra

Named in honour of the late Dr Margaret Tobin, the Margaret Tobin Award is presented to the RANZCP Fellow who has made the most significant contribution to administrative psychiatry in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand over the preceding five years.

Associate Professor Lakra was awarded the 2024 Margaret Tobin Award for his substantial contributions in the last five years, and leadership and work during COVID to support both the College and the local health system.

The Mark Sheldon Prize



Mr Tom Brideson

The Mark Sheldon Prize was established by the family, friends and colleagues of the late Dr Mark Sheldon to recognise noteworthy contributions to Indigenous mental health in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Mr Brideson was recognised and commended for his meritorious contributions to psychiatry and psychology over decades – from role modelling through to personal and political advocacy, professional activities and community contributions. He was particularly recognised for his active and continuous support of best practice in Aboriginal mental health.

The Pirika Taonga



Dr Claire Paterson

The Pirika Taonga was established in 2021 in memory of Poiti Arama-karaka Pirika, the RANZCP's Kaumātua from 2008–17. It recognises noteworthy contributions in Māori mental health and addiction in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The award may be given to a Māori member of the RANZCP or a member of the Māori community who has contributed to increasing Māori relationships across the Aotearoa New Zealand mental health sector. The individual's commitment to Te Reo Māori me onā tikanga in practice is one of the noteworthy principles underpinning the award.

Dr Paterson was a fitting recipient of the Pirika Taonga, given her significant contribution to the improvement of cultural competence and safety at the College as well as her contribution to the Māori mental health sector. Her humility and engagement with others have been a key to her success, and she is dedicated to the prioritisation of care and recognition for Māori whanau.

The RANZCP Senior Research Award



Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, AM



Professor Valsamma Eapen

Established in 1978 to recognise excellence in research in psychiatry in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, the RANZCP Senior Research Award is presented to the Fellow or Affiliate who has made the most significant contribution to psychiatric research in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand over the preceding five years.

Professors Eapen and Kulkarni shared the 2024 RANZCP Senior Research Award due to their significant early contributions to the understanding of the onset of developmental disorders, their long history of research excellence, and their high-impact publications from multiple international collaborations.

The RANZCP Early Career Psychiatrist Award



Dr Korinne Northwood

The RANZCP Early Career Psychiatrist Award was established in 1979 to encourage and promote research in psychiatry in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. It is presented to the Fellow, Affiliate or trainee who has contributed the most significant paper published in the past two years.

Amongst a very competitive field, Dr Northwood was selected for her sophisticated and innovative study, which developed and validated new techniques with clinical significance and was published in a high-impact journal.

The Lived Experience Australia Award for Best Practice in Consumer and Carer Inclusion



Dr Natalie Puchalski

The Lived Experience Australia Award is awarded to the psychiatry trainee who has submitted the best reflection following completion of all five 'Collaboration, Communication and Cooperation between Health Professionals' modules in Learn*it*. The award recognises best practice in consumer and carer inclusion.

Dr Puchalski received the award for recognising the importance of consumers and carers as being an equal part of the care team, collaborating on formal plans that can be shared with subsequent providers promoting continuity of care.

Her recommendations of using peer advocacy, and the role of peer advocates/workers and how valuable they are, was highlighted.

The Addiction Psychiatry Prize



Dr Muhammad Bilal Raza

The Addiction Psychiatry Prize is an incentive award designed to encourage achievements and excellence in addiction psychiatry.

Dr Raza's Scholarly Project 'Impact of long-acting buprenorphine injection on methamphetamine use: a retrospective cohort study' was comprehensive and well written, with clearly presented methodology and an insightful discussion of results.

The Connell Werry Prize



Dr Daniel Mirmilsteins

The Connell Werry Prize is awarded to an advanced trainee in child and adolescent psychiatry for the most outstanding paper or poster presented at the RANZCP Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry conference. The prize honours Dr Helen Connell and Professor John Werry who were pioneers in the field in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Faculty of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Trainee Abstract Prize



Dr Michelle Li

The Faculty of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Trainee Abstract Prize is awarded to an advanced trainee in consultation-liaison psychiatry for the best oral, rapid fire or poster presentation made at the Faculty of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry conference.

The Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Basic Psychiatric Trainee Prize



Dr Nandita Hely

The Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Basic Psychiatric Trainee Prize recognises originality, scientific merit and contribution to the knowledge base of psychiatry of old age by a psychiatry trainee.

Dr Hely's paper 'SQiD talks: A qualitative study about starting conversations with the single question in delirium' read well and was a good qualitative analysis of the SQiD, which is very relevant to the field of old age psychiatry.

The Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Psychiatric Trainee Prize for Scholarly Project

Dr Michael Connors

The Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Psychiatric Trainee Prize for Scholarly Project is awarded to a current or recent advanced trainee in psychiatry of old age, for meritorious research in the field of psychiatry of old age.

Dr Connors' paper 'Distinguishing apathy and depression in dementia' was a well-designed longitudinal study with good statistical analysis and reporting, and very relevant to old age psychiatry.

The Medicott Award



Dr Laura Dalzell

The Medicott Award honours Emeritus Professor Reginald Medicott, a leading forensic psychiatrist in Aotearoa New Zealand and inaugural president of the RANZCP, following its incorporation in 1963. The award seeks to encourage achievements and excellence in research in forensic psychiatry.

Dr Dalzell's article 'Gender affirmation and mental health in prison: A critical review of current corrections policy for trans people in Australia and New Zealand' was well written with a well-considered discussion.

The Pat, Toni and Peter Kinsman Research Scholarship



Dr Luba Sominsky, Professor Alison Yung and Professor Peter Vuillermin

The Pat, Toni and Peter Kinsman Research Scholarship, supported by a bequest from the Kinsman family, was established in 1996 to encourage research into postnatal depression in women in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dr Sominsky, Professor Yung and Professor Vuillermin's project 'Identifying biological mechanisms and targets for prevention of perinatal depression' – which will seek to understand the biology of perinatal depression – will make a unique publishable contribution to this field, if successful.

The Faculty of Psychotherapy Essay Prize



Dr Radhika Palepu

The Faculty of Psychotherapy Essay Prize is given for the best essay submitted by a psychiatry trainee or recent Fellow on a psychotherapy topic.

Dr Palepu's essay 'Epistemic trust and its utility in psychotherapy' was a sophisticated, well written and thoughtful essay with clear relevance to psychotherapy.

Members honoured

Throughout 2024, several members of the RANZCP were publicly honoured in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand for their achievements and contributions to psychiatry and mental health.

The RANZCP congratulates the following members:

Professor Jackie Curtis (New South Wales)



Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to medicine, particularly as a mental health clinician and researcher.

Professor Jackie Curtis was appointed inaugural Executive Director of the Mindgardens Neuroscience Network in April 2020. She was previously the Clinical Director of Youth Mental Health at the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Her research and clinical work over several decades has focused on early psychosis and youth mental health, including improving the cardiometabolic health of people living with serious mental disorders such as schizophrenia, with the aim of reducing health inequalities and increasing life expectancy.

Professor Curtis developed and implemented the internationally recognised Keeping

the Body in Mind program, demonstrating that antipsychotic-induced weight gain can be prevented with lifestyle intervention. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the iphYs international working group advocating for improved physical health for youth experiencing psychosis.

An invited committee member of the World Health Organisation's working group for international guidelines on management of physical health conditions in adults with severe mental disorders, Professor Curtis is also a Conjoint Professor in the Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health at the University of New South Wales.

In 2023 she was the recipient of the RANZCP's prestigious Margaret Tobin Award.

Dr Vivienne Elton (Victoria)



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

For service to psychiatry, and to the community.

Dr Vivienne Elton is a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, past president, and current training analyst of the Australian Psychoanalytical Society (APAS), and has a private practice in Melbourne. Other senior positions she has held in APAS include Vice President, Honorary Secretary and Chair of the Scientific committee.

Committed to psychoanalytic education, Dr Elton has written curriculum for the APAS training program, and taught extensively, including infant observation in China. From 2018–20, she was visiting professor in the psychotherapy training program at the Wuhan Hospital for Psychotherapy, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. She's currently a member of the International Psychoanalytic Association

(IPA) sponsoring committee for the Wuhan China Study group, assisting in developing an independent training program for psychoanalysts.

Dr Elton is also Chair of the IPA in the Humanitarian Field committees, including the Migrants and Refugees and IPA at the United Nations committees. She helped establish the Crisis and Responders Outreach Service, offering five free therapeutic sessions to front line responders, migrants, and refugees.

Her numerous roles include mentoring psychiatry trainees and psychoanalytic candidates, supervising and teaching, and humanitarian activities.

Dr Elton was previously President of the National Association of Practising Psychiatrists and is currently Vice President.

Dr George Foster (New South Wales)



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

For service to the Jewish community of New South Wales.

Dr George Foster retired in 2010 from his psychiatric practice of 35 years, having spent 10 years as a community psychiatrist and the rest in private practice. In the 1970s, he was part of a committee of the Richmond Report advising on moving patients into community living. Upon his retirement, Dr Foster expanded his involvement in the Jewish community both within the Holocaust Survivors Association and his local synagogue supporting the community particularly through the COVID pandemic.

Born in Hungary in 1946, Dr Foster immigrated to Sydney, Australia in 1947. He was a member of Apex Australia 1976–1987 and a Life Member of Caringbah–Cronulla Apex Club. Over the years, he served on the Board of Directors of the Sydney Jewish Museum, as a Member of Executive of New South Wales Jewish Board

of Deputies, Chair of Holocaust Remembrance Committee, and as a Deputy of the NSW Board of Deputies who he represented on the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee for 11 years.

Dr Foster is currently President of the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants, a position he has held for 15 years.

He is also President of Southern Sydney Synagogue, a position he has held for 11 years and was awarded Life Membership in 2021.

Dr Foster remains passionate and enthusiastic about his work for the Jewish Community. He is humbled and gratified that his efforts have made a difference.

Dr Roger Gurr (New South Wales)



Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to mental health research and initiatives, and to the community.

Dr Roger Gurr has been a tireless advocate for mental health among refugees, for innovative treatments for developmental trauma and for effective, accessible and equitable care for all who are in need. In 1988, at the end of 10 years' leadership of Amnesty International, he initiated, co-founded and is now Board Chair of the NSW Service for the Assessment and Treatment of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS). STARTTS treats around 7500 traumatised refugees each year and with 20 years of experience of effectively using quantitative EEG assessments and neurofeedback treatment for the most severely traumatised, he is now campaigning for the benefits to spread to the general community.

Dr Gurr established the first totally community-based mental health service in the City of Blacktown from 1980, until Bungarrabee House was opened at Blacktown Hospital in 1992. He later led services at Liverpool Hospital before becoming the Director of Mental Health at Western Sydney Area Health Service from 2005–12. In 2015 he became the Clinical Director of the Headspace Early Psychosis service in Western Sydney.

Professor Anthony Harris (New South Wales)



Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to mental health as a clinician and academic.

Professor Anthony Harris is a professor of psychiatry and the head of the specialty of psychiatry at the University of Sydney. He is based at Westmead Hospital and the Westmead Institute for Medical Research. He cares for young people with a severe mental illness in a youth mental health service based in Western Sydney Local Health District Mental Health Services.

Professor Harris has over 30 years' experience in clinical research into the aetiology and treatment of severe mental illness, particularly schizophrenia, and has worked on both psychological and pharmacological treatments. He was the chair of One Door Mental Health prior to its merger with Mind Australia and has continued as a director of Mind Australia, a leading non-governmental organisation in the mental health field.

Professor Ian Hickie (New South Wales)



Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

For distinguished service to psychiatric research and reforms as an advocate for improved mental health care and awareness.

Professor Ian Hickie is the Co-Director of Health and Policy at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre and a global leader in mental health research and digital innovations in care. He was an inaugural NHMRC Australian Fellow (2007–12), then Senior Principal Research Fellow (2013–17 and 2018–22), and is now supported at the highest level of personal Investigator Grants (2023–27).

He was an inaugural Commissioner on Australia's National Mental Health Commission (2012–18) overseeing enhanced accountability for mental health reform and suicide prevention. He is an internationally renowned researcher in clinical psychiatry, with particular reference to digital innovation, youth mental health care and adolescent-onset mood disorders, notably depression and bipolar disorder.

Dr Johanna Lammersma (Tasmania)



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

For service to the community through a range of roles.

Dr Johanna Lammersma became a RANZCP Fellow in 1987, and worked in the public system until 1993 when she moved into private practice. Her interest was management of people with bipolar and depressive disorders.

Her involvement with the College was varied and impactful. She joined the South Australian Branch Committee in 1987 and became Examination Secretary, before serving as Branch Chair. She was a General Councillor for six years and Honorary Secretary from 2001–07. During this time Dr Lammersma was a member of the Strategic Development Committee and the College Executive Committee. Further, she was a member of the Board of Professional and Community Relations, Chair of the Community Liaison Committee and Chair of the Australia Private Practitioners Network. Dr Lammersma received the College Medal of Honour in 2009.

Dr Lammersma's roles outside the College are also noteworthy. She held the position of Director of the Mental Health Professionals Network from 2008–16, was a Member of the South Australia Guardianship Board from 2011–14 and then a Member of the South Australia Civil and Administrative Tribunal from 2015–20.

Professor Brett McDermott (Tasmania)



Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to medicine in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry.

For the last 25 years Professor Brett McDermott has held dual roles in directing public child and adolescent mental health services and undertaking the activities of a clinical academic. Service highlights include having been the Lead-Clinician of the WA Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Founding Director of the CAMHS Eating Disorders Team at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth.

From 2002–14 Professor McDermott was the Executive Director of the Mater Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Brisbane. This included the creation and/or expansion of an adolescent drug and alcohol service, perinatal and infant, CAMHS inpatient and day program services.

Professor McDermott was the co-author of Evolve Therapeutic Service for children in out-of-home-care. His research includes over 100 peer reviewed publications, mainly in the areas of disaster mental health, eating disorders, adverse child experiences and CAMHS service provision.

From 2006–16 Professor McDermott was a Board Director of beyondblue: the National Depression Initiative and has served on numerous state and federal expert groups and guideline initiatives. Current appointments include Specialty Director Tasmania CAMHS (with oversight of the CAMHS reform undertaken by the Tasmanian Health Service), Board Member of Hand-n-Hand Peer Support and RANZCP Director of Advanced Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Tasmania).

Ms Sharon McGowan (Victoria)



(Honorary) Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to community health, particularly stroke prevention and awareness.

Ms Sharon McGowan was the Chief Executive Officer of the RANZCP until December 2024. Having spent her career in the health and not-for-profit sector, Ms McGowan has a wealth of leadership and governance experience gained over the past 30 years.

She is a skilled communicator, with a background in health service management, community engagement, advocacy, culture transformation and philanthropy. Originally trained as a registered nurse, she has worked in Australia and the UK with a range of health, public sector and not-for-profit organisations.

Ms McGowan is an experienced Board Director and currently Chair of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium, a group whose vision is to accelerate the application of medical research to actionable guidance for front line clinicians using a living approach to evidence synthesis. Prior to joining the College, she was CEO of the national Stroke Foundation for seven years, growing the Foundation's revenue and impact. She is the immediate past Chair of the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce Steering Committee.

Associate Professor Carolyn Quadrio (New South Wales)



Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

For significant service to psychiatry as a clinician, academic and mentor.

Professor Quadrio grew up in a migrant family with a single mother and had the benefit of free education, without which she may not have made it into the world of medicine.

She is Adjunct Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the University of New South Wales. She practises in forensic and child and family psychiatry, particularly related to intrafamilial violence and its impact on victims and children.

She is well known as a teacher and supervisor in individual psychotherapy, and in child and family therapy, and for her work in women's mental health and in introducing a feminist and gender analysis to mainstream psychiatry in Australia. Her research has been on women in psychiatry, as patients and as practitioners; sexual abuse of patients in therapy; and the long-term sequelae of family violence and childhood sexual abuse, including in religious institutions.

Dr Murray Wright (New South Wales)



Public Service Medal (PSM)

For outstanding public service to primary and community health policy development in New South Wales.

Dr Wright achieved RANZCP Fellowship in 1990, and was awarded the Maddison Medal for that year. He was appointed Honorary Secretary to the College Quality Assurance Committee (1990–95), as his dissertation proposing a model for Continuing Medical Education in psychiatry was adopted and implemented by the College. Dr Wright has been involved with numerous RANZCP committees and groups including the Board of Practice Standards, NSW Branch Consultation-Liaison Interest Group, the Committee for Examinations, the Fellowships Board Training and Exemptions Subcommittee, NSW Branch Rural Psychiatry Project Steering Committee, Branch Training Committee and NSW Psychiatry State Training Council.

He has worked in a range of metropolitan, rural and regional centres, as a clinical psychiatrist and in leadership roles, and since October 2014, as NSW Chief Psychiatrist, which has seen him take on statewide leadership roles in service improvement and managing the mental health response to disasters such as the 2019–20 bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the more recent murders at Bondi Junction.

His clinical interests include consultation-liaison psychiatry, emergency psychiatry, quality and safety improvement, psychiatric and substance misuse comorbidity, and psychiatric impairment among health professionals and police officers. He has worked extensively with the NSW Medical Council for almost 30 years, and he has also worked over many years with NSW Police, providing clinical advice and support to the Negotiation and Fixated Persons Units.

Congratulations to our 50-year Fellows

The annual RANZCP Member Recognition Program recognises Fellows who have recently attained the milestone of 15, 25, 40 and 50 years of Fellowship.

Each member receives a letter from the RANZCP President accompanied by a commemorative RANZCP lapel pin for their anniversary tier. The 25-, 40- and 50-year Fellows also receive a gift aligning with traditional anniversary themes of silver, ruby and gold.

The following members achieved the '50 years of Fellowship' milestone in 2024 and will be recognised in 2025. We are grateful for your dedication, support and contribution to the College's rich history.

50 years of Fellowship

- Dr Alexander Bell
- Dr John Campbell
- Dr Anne Cooper
- Dr Edward Darby
- Dr Carmine De Pasquale
- Dr Paul Debenham
- Dr John Dickins
- Dr Harry Freeman
- Dr Hugh Garner
- Dr Jeffrey Gerrard
- Dr Donald Grant
- Dr Sandra Hacker
- Dr John Hoult
- Dr Michael Hurley
- Dr Peter Lee
- Dr David Lord
- Dr M Mahadevan
- Dr Murray McLachlan
- Dr Gerald Oppenheim
- Dr George Poulos
- Dr David Rampling
- Dr Moses Rasalam
- Dr Dal Retallack
- Dr Geoffrey Rickarby
- Dr John Roberts
- Dr Desmond Roman
- A/Prof. Miltiadis Roxanas
- D Sabar Rustomjee
- Dr David Spencer
- Dr Raymond Taylor
- Prof. John Tiller
- Dr Peter Whetton
- Dr Yvonne White
- Dr Robert Wotton

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The number of CPD participants has grown significantly from 5300 doctors participating in the program in 2023 to nearly 6000 by the end of 2024. A new program to support trainees on a prolonged break in training has been implemented, and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) on the Substantial Comparability pathway to Fellowship have been absorbed into the CPD program.

In Australia, all doctors must annually meet the [Registration Standard for Continuing Professional Development](#), and in 2025, compliance with the 2024 CPD program will be reported to AHPRA for the first time. Preparation for this reporting is well underway, as every Australian member with practising registration must have their compliance reported. All medical registration numbers must be validated in College systems as they will be used to match RANZCP records with AHPRA records. Compliance data will be extracted – from the MyCPD system and InTrain for trainees and Partially Comparable SIMGs.

In 2024 the CPD team supported over 550 participants to complete their 2023 CPD records, with a comprehensive follow up of members with personal calls and emails.

A key achievement was the successful submission to the Medical Board of Australia requesting that all psychiatrists, regardless of their CPD Home, complete a minimum of 10 hours of formal peer review. Setting this as the high-level requirement

for all psychiatrists reflects the importance of peer review and peer review groups as the cornerstone of good psychiatric practice.

Granted under the provisions of legislation across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, qualified privilege is seen by the majority of psychiatrists as an important element of the College's Peer Review Group program, providing a confidential forum for the discussion of cases. In the context of psychiatry formal peer review, this privilege is unique to the RANZCP, and formal application for renewal is required every few years. In 2024, the qualified privilege for the College's Peer Review Group program was renewed by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

Draft activities will have appeared in many participants' MyCPD records during 2024. Over 4600 draft activities were uploaded to MyCPD records, automatically providing the date, duration, title and description of the CPD activity. The activities include pre-Congress workshops, Branch CPD events, webinars, College committee



meetings and more. Members just need to add a reflection on the activity to complete it. This will continue to be rolled out progressively in 2025 across College activities.

In 2025 the RANZCP will publish additional learning modules to cover the domains of cultural safety, addressing health inequity, professionalism and ethics. Following review by the Committee for Continuing Professional Development, selected articles from the College journals focusing on these Culturally Safe Practice, Addressing Health Inequities, Professionalism, Ethics (CAPE) domains are being published in *Learnit*. Reading the article in *Learnit* and completing some multiple-choice questions will lead to a complete automatic entry into MyCPD.



Some statistics for 2024:



5615

participants in the main program



356

participants in the BiT program



7891

phone calls to the CPD Help Desk during the six months March – June 2024



4100

emails to the CPD Help Desk



1890

active Peer Review Groups



190

participants in the PPR, with 78 facilitators



4

CPD newsletters sent to all participants, updating each individual on their progress in the CPD program



31

episodes of *Psych Matters* podcasts published



22

Learnit modules published



4640

draft activities have been uploaded, from more than 88 separate events

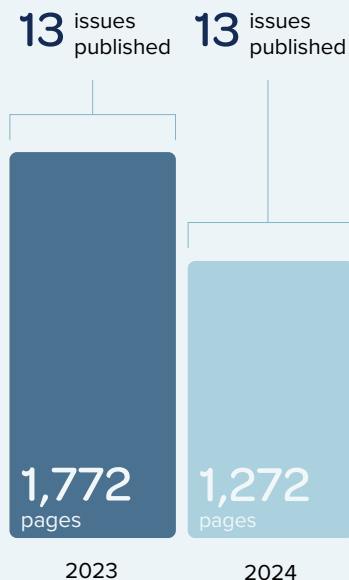
RANZCP Journals

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry

Impact Factor: 4.0 (2023)

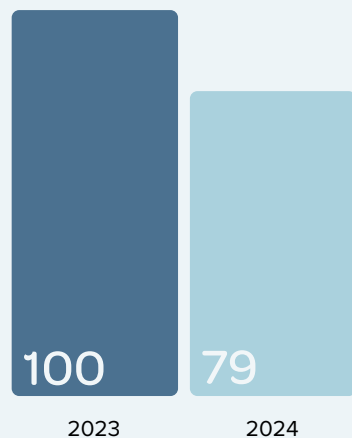
(This data is taken from Web of Science's Journal Citation Report, and they do not currently have 2024 listed. They include data only as far as the JCR Year (2023) and should update once the next Impact Factor is published in June 2025).

Production



These numbers are based on articles' first publication date (not the issue publication date).

Total Articles Published



Impact Factor by Year

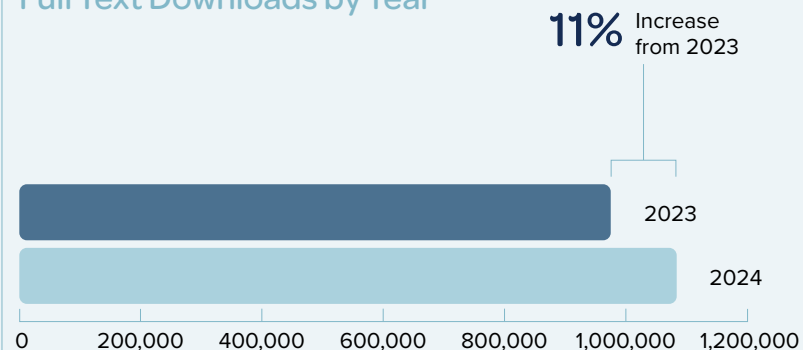
	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
Impact Factor	4.0	-13%
Ranking in Psychiatry	55/279	N/A
Cites to Recent Items	1,004	-22%
Citable Items	253	-9%
Total Citations	8,153	-7%
Immediacy Index	0.900	0%
5-Year Impact Factor	5.0	-4%

Total Submissions and Acceptance Rate (2024)

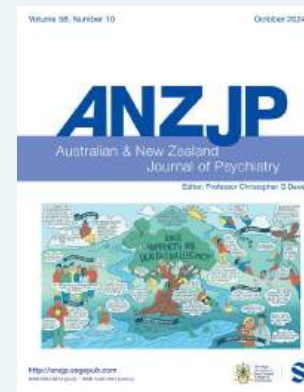
Total	591
Original	455
Accept	110
Reject	347
Accept Ratio	24%

Total and original submission counts are based on the date manuscripts were submitted to Sage Track. This data is available in the "Manuscripts Received" report in Sage Track. Acceptance rate is based on manuscripts that have received final decisions of accept or reject (does not count revisions). Counts for acceptances, rejections, and acceptance ratios are based on the date the decision is made, not the date the manuscript was submitted. This data is available in the "Manuscript Milestone" report in Sage Track (limiting by decision date, not by date of original submission).

Full Text Downloads by Year



The journal had 1,082,040 full-text downloads in 2024. This is a 11% increase over 973,463 full-text downloads through 2023. Full-text downloads include HTML, PDF, and ePub article usage.

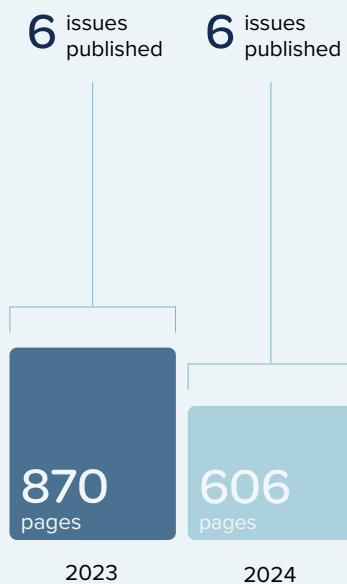


Australasian Psychiatry

Impact Factor: 1.2 (2023)

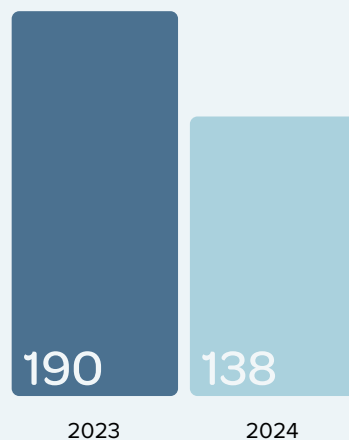
(This data is taken from Web of Science's Journal Citation Report, and they do not currently have 2024 listed. They include data only as far as the JCR Year (2023) and should update once the next Impact Factor is published in June 2025).

Production



These numbers are based on articles' first publication date (not the issue publication date).

Total Articles Published



Impact Factor by Year

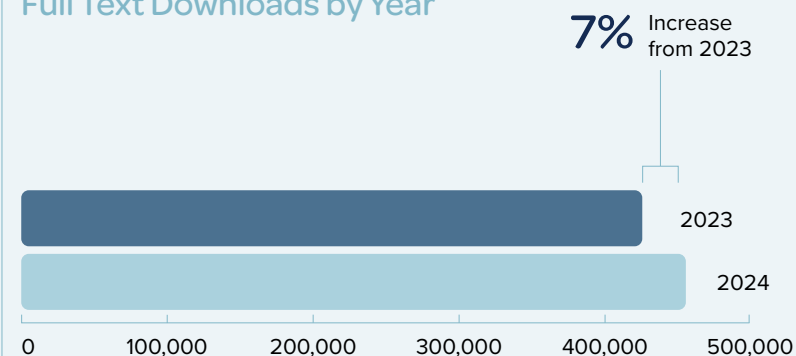
	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
Impact Factor	1.2	-33%
Ranking in Psychiatry	211/279	N/A
Cites to Recent Items	283	-50%
Citable Items	230	-27%
Total Citations	1,919	-10%
Immediacy Index	0.300	0%
5-Year Impact Factor	1.4	-13%

Total Submissions and Acceptance Rate (2024)

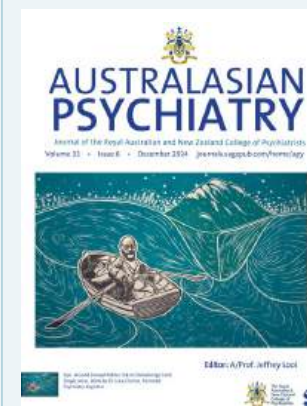
Total	525
Original	354
Accept	170
Reject	79
Accept Ratio	68%

Total and original submission counts are based on the date manuscripts were submitted to Sage Track. This data is available in the "Manuscripts Received" report in Sage Track. Acceptance rate is based on manuscripts that have received final decisions of accept or reject (does not count revisions). Counts for acceptances, rejections, and acceptance ratios are based on the date the decision is made, not the date the manuscript was submitted. This data is available in the "Manuscript Milestone" report in Sage Track (limiting by decision date, not by date of original submission).

Full Text Downloads by Year



The journal had 455,353 full-text downloads in 2024. This is a 7% increase over 425,494 full-text downloads through 2023. Full-text downloads include HTML, PDF, and ePub article usage.



Australasian Psychiatry - December 2024 issue cover. *Sigi - A Good Enough Father*, Ink on Stonehenge Card, Single press, 2024, by Dr Luke Ciantar, Perinatal Psychiatry Registrar

Climate and Sustainability

The RANZCP is committed to reducing our environmental impact as an organisation, supporting sector-wide initiatives linked to climate change and health, and encouraging members to consider relevant actions that they can incorporate into their practice.

In 2024, we took part in a number of workshops and roundtables involving all specialist medical colleges, and lent our support to campaigns including for Australia's National Health and Climate Strategy to be urgently funded.

We were proud to support the [Joint Statement: Working together to achieve sustainable high-quality health care in a changing climate](#) – led by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control, and the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges representing all medical colleges and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association. This statement demonstrated a shared commitment to address the health impacts of climate change, and for all of us to work together to achieve sustainable high-quality health care in a changing climate.

In 2024, the RANZCP undertook an independent organisational emissions assessment to gain a greater understanding of our current carbon footprint. The RANZCP's total organisational greenhouse gas emissions have been estimated at 2,768.01 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Due to the nature of the College's activities and operations, the vast majority of our emissions fall under the Scope 3 Emissions category (92.97%). Of these, purchased goods and services, followed by travel are the largest contributors.

Although carbon reporting is not yet mandatory for an organisation of our size, this may change in the future, and the assessment also gives us a solid baseline measurement to compare against in future years.

The RANZCP is mindful of the environmental impacts of large events, such as conferences, and we have been taking active steps to make our conferences more sustainable. For our annual College Congress, New Zealand conference and other events, this has included further reducing or removing printed materials, reviewing catering options, and reducing single-use items (e.g. lanyards, coffee cups). In 2024, delegates were provided with information on our conferences' environmental strategies, and provided with ideas to reduce their own personal footprint when attending the events.

At the 2024 Congress in Canberra, delegates were also invited to make a voluntary donation to help offset their carbon footprint as part of the registration process. In addition, the RANZCP contributed funds on behalf of all keynote and invited speakers, Board members and staff who travelled to the conference. A total of \$5,545 was raised, which was directed towards two projects that align with key sustainable development goals: the Native Forest Regeneration Portfolio, located in NSW and QLD, and the April Salumei Rainforest Conservation project in Papua New Guinea.

Climate Change Joint Statement 2024



International Engagement

The RANZCP has many international relationships and is actively supporting psychiatrists across the world through mentoring and volunteer programs. The most significant ongoing activity is managed through a subset of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (FCAP), called the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry International Relations subcommittee (CAPIR).

Its work is varied, and the members involved are committed to assisting their international peers and colleagues where possible, as seen in the broad range of international connections made.

A mainstay of CAPIR's work is the Online Pacific Health Exchange (OPHELIA), an online short course in child and adolescent mental health for health workers in Pacific countries. The course is free, delivered via Zoom, and is organised by the FCAP in collaboration with St Vincent's Postgraduate Overseas Specialist Training program and Fiji National University (FNU).

This program took place over 12 weeks from May to August, with up to 135 people attending each session. Evaluation of the series indicated that participants found the material relevant, and the series had built confidence in talking about child and adolescent health. The recordings of the sessions have been popular and a good resource for attendees to use with many positive comments received to date.

Meanwhile a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established to support the Fiji National University's (FNU) Masters in Psychiatry program. The College has committed to the relationship for four years and will facilitate four visits to the university each year by Visiting Medical Specialists for teaching activities, as well as organise 10 qualified subject matter experts for online teaching sessions.

Under the MOU a formal mentoring program for FNU's course coordinator will also be developed

to assist in their curriculum development.

The Cambodian Online Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Introductory Training program provided training for specialist paediatricians and general psychiatrists and trainees at the National Childrens Hospital (Phenom Penh) and other hospitals in the provinces of Cambodia. This was delivered through 11 online sessions and saw 92 people registered for the course, with excellent attendance rates.

The course ended in August and evaluation poll data was positive for all the sessions. The end

PICTURED RIGHT: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and the RANZCP



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of course evaluation survey data was developed in conjunction with program partners, St Vincent's Hospital and the Cambodian Ministry of Health. Attendance certificates were provided to all participants individualised for the sessions they attended.

The Vietnam Psychiatric Association held an international conference in conjunction with the RANZCP in October in Hanoi, with a theme of changing awareness of mental health care. More than 20 psychiatrists and trainees from Australia and New Zealand attended and presented, along with College President, Dr Elizabeth Moore.

Then in November, the Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professionals of Ukraine held an online conference, 'PTSD and mental disorders in children caused by the war in Ukraine', with the RANZCP. Several FCAP members provided specialist pre-recorded presentations and contributed to the live question and answer session. Dr Elizabeth Moore delivered the opening address.

Additional requests for support came to CAPIR from the Sri Lankan College of Psychiatrists to partner in a MOU. This was still being progressed at the end of the year and planning for the delivery of the requested course is scheduled for early 2025.

In 2025 the College will scope and develop its first international strategy and looks forward to providing more members with the opportunity to share their experience and knowledge with peers across the Pacific and the world.

"In 2025 the College will scope and develop its first international strategy and looks forward to providing more members with the opportunity to share their experience and knowledge with peers across the Pacific and the world."



Dr Elizabeth Moore at the Vietnam - ANZ International Psychiatry Conference 2024



Lived Experience

The College's inaugural Lived Experience Strategy, which was endorsed by the Board at the end of 2023, includes the creation of two part-time professional roles within the organisation's structure, designed to support the implementation of the Strategy.

Much of this year was dedicated to the recruitment process, which included refinement of the roles' responsibilities and giving additional consideration of the requirements of the incoming staff. This work feeds into the development of a specific Lived Experience recruitment plan – a deliverable of the overarching Strategy – which is intended to create safe and rewarding pathways for all future employees with a lived experience of mental ill-health.

The College now has more than 30 individuals with a lived or living experience working across almost 50 member committees, providing invaluable perspectives as the College considers policy, practice and standards, and ways to progress our advocacy for consumers.

The foundational committee, the Community Collaboration Committee (CCC), continued its work in advising the College, and was able to hold meetings in Canberra and Wellington in conjunction with both the College's annual Congress and New Zealand Conference.

Members of the CCC also attended the first Cultural Immersion meeting in Melbourne, which brought our three partnership committees together to learn more about engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

One of the CCC members, Matt Brittain, who comes to the Committee with personal experience of the mental ill-health system, shared his

reflections. He noted the importance of and willingness to bring together diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences of lived experience, all with the shared goal of fostering understanding and unity:

'The RANZCP has demonstrated its commitment to culturally safe practice that reflects the diverse needs of the communities it serves across both Australia and New Zealand. This dedication was evident in the attendance of the College's CEO, President, and additional RANZCP staff at the cultural immersion event. Their presence underscored a powerful message of allyship and integrity within the College's leadership, highlighting a genuine commitment to working collaboratively with diverse communities.

The journey toward culturally safe and inclusive practice is one that, as I witnessed, will never cease. It is a shared path that requires continuous learning and an open heart. RANZCP's leadership and committee members have been guiding us forward on this path with vision and intention, encouraging all of us to reflect, grow, and deepen our understanding. This vision respects, protects, and values cultural diversity as a cornerstone of effective mental health care across our nations.

Throughout the immersion event, RANZCP staff joined us to engage in open discussions about enhancing inclusion of lived experience within the College and advancing culturally safe practices

across mental health services. This conversation was part of a broader commitment to continually improve and evolve these practices. Staff invited us to share our thoughts on what culturally safe practice looks like in action and how the College could deepen its engagement with communities.

This dialogue felt like a continuation of the yarning circle's spirit of openness and respect, and it underscored RANZCP's ongoing commitment to cultural inclusivity. The collaborative spirit of these discussions left me hopeful for the future, knowing that our voices are heard and valued in shaping policies and practices that are responsive to the needs of all communities.'

During 2025 the College will be welcoming staff into its first dedicated roles for people with lived and living experience and will be working to authentically imbed and implement the Lived Experience Strategy.

"The RANZCP has demonstrated its commitment to culturally safe practice that reflects the diverse needs of the communities it serves across both Australia and New Zealand." - Matt Brittain, RANZCP CCC member



TOP: RANZCP Cultural Immersion meeting, Melbourne (November 2024)

BOTTOM: Joint webinar between the RANZCP and SANE for World Mental Health Day 2024

WEBINAR: COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE.

Date: Thursday 10 October
Time: 3 - 4pm (AEDT)
Featuring:

- Dr Alex Fraser
- Prof Malcolm Hopwood
- Matt Dale

Jointly hosted by

  **SANE**

Our People

– People and Culture - Tō mātou mahi – Pūmanawa Tāngata

The Team - Tō mātou tīma

The People and Culture team is led by Jarka Kluth, who joined the College in 2024 as the Executive Manager. Jarka works alongside Danielle Blanco, Minitha Saxena, Christina Piening, and Dom Callil, forming a cohesive team with a total of 4.2 FTE positions.



This year we developed a new onboarding module to provide new staff with a seamless, engaging introduction focused on inclusivity, connection, and growth. Additionally, the onboarding process includes personalised experiences tailored to each team member, ensuring support from day one; and a buddy system that promotes social integration, builds meaningful relationships, and enhances retention.

College All-Staff Meeting - Te hui ā-kaimahi

In April 2024, the College held a two-day all-staff meeting. The event fostered connection among colleagues, highlighted the College's priorities, and emphasised its strategic goals. This event was a milestone, strengthening team culture, supporting the College's vision and its values of Collaboration, Action, Respect and Excellence.



Our People - Tō mātou tāngata

The College has over 170 staff across our Melbourne head office, New Zealand national office, and branches in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth with some staff also working remotely in regional areas. 2024 saw considerable progress in strengthening the team, and our hybrid working model provides flexibility and supports our approach to attracting and retaining a capable, committed workforce.



Cultural Awareness, Lived Experience, and Commitment to Diversity - Te Kawa whakaruruhau, Tāngata mātau ā-wheako, Te whakapūmautanga i ngā mahi kanorau

The College remains committed to cultural diversity and reconciliation through its Reconciliation Action Plan. Our Cultural Liaison Officers have enhanced staff cultural training by providing firsthand insights, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging meaningful discussions.

Aligned with our Innovate RAP and commitment to inclusivity, we have introduced the option for Australian staff to substitute the January 26th Public Holiday with a day of their choice. A new Acknowledgment of Country email signature has also launched.



We continue to advance our Lived Experience Strategy, ensuring lived and living experiences shape our work. Additionally, the College completed its second Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) report, with a positive trend in narrowing the gender pay gap.

Building Connections - Whakawhanaungatanga



Acknowledged and Celebrated Days

The People and Culture department organised and participated in various events that highlighted inclusivity, awareness, and celebration:

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- R U OK Day
- National Reconciliation Week
- NAIDOC Week
- Matariki Day
- Diwali
- International Day of People with Disability
- International Women's Day
- Rise and Shine Breakfast Meetings

Giving Back - me mahi a hāpori

RANZCP staff contributed to several charity and community initiatives, including:

- Foodbank Food Drive during a Winter Wonderland gathering
- The One Foot Forward Challenge
- The College RAP launch, which incorporated a fundraiser for VACCA
- Rise and Shine Breakfast Meetings

Well-being - Hauora

In addition to our existing suite of staff benefits, programs introduced included:

- Yoga sessions
- Fruit deliveries for staff
- Yarn'anga Literature Club

The People and Culture team remains committed to fostering a supportive, inclusive, and engaging workplace environment. With new initiatives and strengthened cultural awareness, 2024 marked a year of progress and connection.



Board Constituent Committee reports

Board members



Dr Elizabeth Moore
President



Dr Michelle Atchison
Elected Director



Dr Mark Lawrence
Elected Director



A/Prof. Melanie Turner
Elected Director (to Dec. 2024)



Dr Astha Tomar
President-Elect



Dr Ava Carter
Appointed Director, Trainee



Prof. Richard Newton
Director (Casual Vacancy)



Dr Angelo Virgona
Elected Director

Finance and Audit Committee



Chair
Dr Michelle Atchison

Committee members

- A/Prof. John Allan
- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Dr Marcia Fogarty
- Dr Prasoon Gupta
- A/Prof. Vinay Lakra
- Dr Blair Leslie
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- A/Prof. Melanie Turner

In response to the external Board evaluation, the functions and responsibilities of the Finance Committee and Audit Committee were amalgamated, and the Finance and Audit Committee was operationalised.

The primary objective of the Finance and Audit Committee is to act as an advisory body to the Board in relation to statutory and contractual compliance and financial strategy reporting, and oversee and monitor the College's financial audit processes, including the College's internal control activities.

The College reported an overall operating deficit of \$599,605 for the financial year. This is consistent with the Board's decision to support key goals in the 2022–25 Strategic Plan, invest and allocate staff resources to address AMC conditions, and develop a new program of assessment and adopt a longer-term programmatic assessment methodology.

The Finance and Audit Committee undertook the following work:

- Monitored the College cash flows, operating results and financial position periodically throughout the year ensuring the College maintained a strong fiscal position and remained financially viable.
- Supported by the Investment Subcommittee, reviewed investments on a regular basis ensuring the external advisor JBWere managed the investment portfolio in accordance with the College Investments Policy.
- Reviewed the quarterly forecast results for the 2024 financial year and the draft annual budgets for the 2025 financial year.

- Served as an independent and objective party to review financial information including annual accounts and accounting policies and practices.
- Endorsed for Board approval the increases in membership fees and charges for 2025.
- The Committee was regularly updated on information technology security and cyber risks.

RSM Australia Partners conducted the external audit of the College's annual financial report in accordance with the terms of engagement, which will be presented to the membership in 2025. Towards the end of the year, the focus was on processes for appointing a new auditor to conduct the 2025 audit, with a resolution to be proposed at the 2025 AGM.

The College is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for charity tax concessions including income tax exemption. A self-review of the College structure and operations is undertaken annually and the ATO concluded in 2024 that the College remains compliant with the ATO endorsement for charity tax concessions.

The Finance and Audit Committee extends its gratitude to former members of the Finance Committee, Dr Sue Mackersey and Dr Julie Wehbe, and to members of the former Audit Committee Dr Jerome Nicholapillai, Dr Astha Tomar and Prof. Steve Kisely for their dedicated service.

Corporate Governance and Risk Committee

The Corporate Governance and Risk Committee (CGRC) considered various initiatives as part of its continued commitment to enhancing the College's governance processes and organisational effectiveness.

Key work of the CGRC included:

- Considered AMC Conditions relating to a review of the Faculty, Section, and Network structure; compliance of Committees to the Conflict of Interest policy; a centralised document repository; and evaluating the revised *Undertaking in Relation to Confidential Information and Management of Conflict of Interest*.
- Overseeing the external evaluation of the RANZCP Board and implementation of recommendations:
 - Developed guidance regarding role expectations of an Elected Director.
 - Merged the Finance Committee and Audit Committee responsibilities.
 - Board committed to continue to appoint a Trainee Director until Constitutional change.
 - Commenced a review and model for a College Risk Appetite.
 - Introduced a more effective board management portal.
- The ballot to elect five Elected Directors to the RANZCP Board, and a Director (Casual Vacancy) process, were undertaken.
- The Appointed Director, Trainee's term was amended to allow for re-appointment at the end of the first term, to serve a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms.

- 721 positions across 114 committees required election processes with an overall fill rate of 83%.
- Two comprehensive reviews were undertaken of 19 College Risk Registers (121 risks were identified comprising 5 low, 51 medium, 54 high, and 11 extreme risks). Several innovations were implemented to support easier real time reporting, data analysis, and high-level strategic review by the Board and CGRC.
- Improvement of the Board, Committee Chair, and Member induction programs.
- Consideration of 6 Regulations, 20 policies and procedures, and 7 Position Descriptions before Board consideration.

This work during 2024 has focused on addressing key governance practices to support the delivery of AMC conditions, the Lived Experience Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Gender Equity Action Plan, and Trainee Engagement Strategy.

The CGRC extends its gratitude to former members Dr Samuel Baxter, Dr Ava Carter, Dr Oliver Hansby, Dr Mark Lawrence, and Dr Helen McGowan for their dedicated service on the CGRC during 2024. Many thanks also to the entire Governance team at the College for their support and management of our work.



Chair
Associate Professor
Melanie Turner (to Dec. 2024)

Committee members

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Dr Samuel Baxter | • Dr Helen McGowan |
| • Prof. Marie Bismark | • A/Prof. Balaji Motamarri |
| • Dr Ava Carter | • Dr David Townsend |
| • Dr Emma Crampin | • A/Prof. Melanie Turner |
| • Dr Hannah Cross | • Dr Benjamin Veness |
| • Dr Subhash Das | • Dr Angelo Virgona |
| • Dr Oliver Hansby | |
| • Dr Mark Lawrence | |

Education Committee



Chair
Dr Elizabeth Moore

Committee members

- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Ms De Backman-Hoyle
- Mrs Katrina Baxter
- Dr Daniel Brass
- Dr Ava Carter
- Dr Song Chan
- Dr Phyllis Chua
- Dr David Furrows
- Dr Nathan Gibson
- Dr Rebecca Graham
- Prof. Richard Harvey
- A/Prof. Bradleigh Hayhow
- A/Prof. Raju Lakshmana
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- Dr Georgia Ramsden
- Dr Melissa Renzenbrink
- Dr Gregory Spencer
- Prof. Andrew Teodorczuk
- A/Prof. Melanie Turner
- Dr Ajay Vijayakrishnan

Significant work has been undertaken in education and training involving 222 members across 21 committees. My thanks to all members and staff involved in this exciting work, which has included:

- Working with the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care on workforce modelling for psychiatry.
- Curriculum Review and Redevelopment: refining the overarching program objectives, program and graduate outcomes and, the syllabus structure and content for Stages 1, 2 & 3 of the program.
- Reviewing EPAs in consultation with over 25 College stakeholder groups, and progressing to a draft final set of 16 EPAs.
- Developing the Clinical Competency Portfolio Review (CCPR) business rules and assessment criteria, with launch dates for the stage 3 IOCA in September 2025 and the CCPR in September 2026.
- Developing the supervisor/assessor training and resources to support principal supervisors. A supervisor workshop was held in May 2024 on 'Difficult conversations and bullying & harassment' and webinars on the educational changes commenced in November 2024.
- Expanding training opportunities in rural and remote locations (RANZCP Rural Roadmap): the framework for remote supervision will be piloted from the February 2025 rotation.
- Starting the design phase for processes and standards for the accreditation of Certificates of Advanced Training in collaboration with the 7 Subcommittees of Advanced Training.
- Launching the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry in September with the orientation webinar and training module for supervisor accreditation. The Board has approved a new membership category, and post nominals Cert. Psychiatry (RANZCP), for those who successfully complete the Certificate.
- The CPD program for trainees on prolonged breaks in training, and for Substantially Comparable SIMGs, has been developed and CPD Home enhancements are underway.
- Submitting the Australian Medical Council annual progress report in October.
- Driving improvement in SIMG applications via digitisation of forms and processes and an accelerated pathway to Fellowship.

Membership Engagement Committee

The Membership Engagement Committee (MEC) provides the College with a space to consider and listen to the views and needs of all our members – from training through to retirement.

My thanks to the previous Chair, Dr Mark Lawrence who passed the baton to me this year.

Forecasted change in regulatory environments and the omnipresent workforce pressures we all experience were the barometer issues across the membership this year.

We heard from over 1200 members who shared what's important for them through our engagement surveys, including what they value most and what they want to see evolve in our College. Taking this forward and implementing change where it's needed is our challenge for 2025.

Major activities we undertook included:

- Welcomed 393 new trainees who started their Fellowship pathway journey with dedicated bi-national orientation webinars, welcome packs and new online content.
- Formed a new Gender Equity Subcommittee to guide our action plan in this space.
- Created a new membership category for graduates of the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry.
- Conducted a dedicated trainee support needs survey to enable us to respond with initiatives that reflect what trainees want from their training body.

- Developed a new category for our CPD Program directed towards well-being education.
- Our Transition to Retirement Working Group finished its large-scale study to understand the needs of late career and retired psychiatrists.
- Launched new web information for trainees on complaints about discrimination, bullying and harassment and options available.
- Granted 136 fee reductions for members experiencing serious illness or financial hardship, or those on parental leave.
- Launched a new Facebook page - @theRANZCP.
- Celebrated the fifth year of our popular RANZCP Mentoring Program establishing 84 new mentoring partnerships.
- Acknowledged 302 longstanding Fellows through our Member Recognition Program.
- Expanded our member benefits and web information including Qantas Club and Koru membership discounts, access to DynaMed, upgraded to Medline Ultimate, and a new member benefits webpage.



Chair
Dr Angelo Virgona

Committee members

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Dr Francis Agnew | • A/Prof. Tatjana Ewais | • Dr Ramya Vadivel |
| • Dr Alan Altham | • Prof. Neeraj Gill | • Dr Angelo Virgona |
| • Dr Andrew Amos | • Dr Padmini Howpage | • Dr Elise Witter |
| • Dr Michelle Atchison | • Prof. Steve Kisely | • Dr Choong-Siew Yong |
| • Dr Siva Balaratnasingam | • Dr Mark Lawrence | • Dr Afraz Zaman |
| • Dr Ava Carter | • Dr Prue McEvoy | |
| • Dr Alice Chang | • Dr Nick O'Connor | |
| • Dr Lifeng Chen | • Dr Murray Patton | |
| • Dr Emma Crampin | • Dr Astha Tomar | |

Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee



Chair
Dr Mark Lawrence

Committee members

- Ms De Backman-Hoyle
- Dr Warren Kealy-Bateman
- A/Prof. Geoff Smith
- Dr Siva Balaratnasingam
- Dr Eileen Lavranos
- A/Prof. Simon Stafrace
- Mr Wayne Blissett
- Dr Mark Lawrence
- Dr Ajay Vijayakrishnan
- Dr Peggy Brown
- Mr Kim Mullholland
- Dr Angelo Virgona
- Dr Michael Daubney
- Dr Claire Paterson
- A/Prof. Nicola Warren
- Ms Lyn English
- Prof. Saddichha Sahoo
- Dr Marshall Watson
- Prof. Richard Harvey
- Dr Natalie Hunt

The Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee (PPPC) oversees six constituent committees alongside steering and working groups. 228 Fellows, 24 trainees, and 20 community members have guided the PPPC via the Community Collaboration Committee (CCC), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee, Te Kaunihera, the Committee for Professional Practice, the Committee for Evidence-Based Practice and the Committee for Research (CfR).

In over 110 submissions at the bi-national, state and territory levels, we covered topics including:

- Workforce e.g. pre-budget submissions
- Professional practice e.g. National Autism Strategy
- Clinical priorities e.g. medicinal cannabis, gambling harm.

Over 20 policy documents were reviewed, including [Ethical Guideline: Zero tolerance policy on proven sexual boundary violations](#).

A cultural immersive activity was held for the CCC, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and Te Kaunihera. This activity provided a valuable opportunity for connection and cultural learning, supporting the College's key priorities and diverse approaches to learning, being, and sharing.

We finalised the [Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review Steering Group's](#) review, undertaken by the Anna Freud Centre.

We initiated a review of the Code of Ethics by hosting a symposium at the New Zealand Conference in September 2024, alongside member workshops for consultation.

The PPPC provided support to members with:

- \$30,000 through the Beverley Raphael New Investigator Grant and the Early Research Career Grant to trainees and Fellows.
- \$95,000 to support the training pathways of 19 trainees who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and 8 trainees who identify as Māori.

In 2025, we will finalise the Code of Ethics review and continue advancing the Board-approved Lived Experience Strategy, including developing an implementation and evaluation plan, publishing a public facing document and supporting greater involvement of lived and living experience across College activity.

Members' Advisory Council report

The Members' Advisory Council (MAC) plays a significant role in providing information and advice to the Board and acts as a forum for the College's key groups to raise and discuss issues and provide feedback on College matters.

The MAC held two face-to-face meetings and two virtual meetings, building on the momentum gained in the previous year, with discussions focused on matters including:

- RANZCP Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- RANZCP Victorian Leadership in Psychiatry project
- External pressures and opportunities impacting workforce and training in branches – including the expedited pathway for SIMGs; National Health Practitioner Ombudsman recommendations; CPD Homes
- RANZCP Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychiatry
- Code of Ethics review
- Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review Steering Group final report
- Faculty, Section and Network review
- Federal Election engagement and advocacy with governments
- Improving member engagement and communication

With representation from Faculties, Sections, all Australian Branch Committees, Tu Te Akaaka Roa – New Zealand National Committee, trainees, overseas-trained psychiatrists, the College's

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee, Te Kaunihera, and the CCC, the broad and diverse perspectives have been invaluable in enabling the College to navigate these contemporary issues. Meetings are also attended by Board Directors, the Chief Executive Officer and Executive team.

As Chair, my warmest thanks and gratitude to the MAC members for their leadership and stewardship of the Branches, Faculties, Sections and representative groups, and for their contributions in representing the views and interests of our varied membership. The MAC is an important forum and sounding board. Without the commitment, expertise and time of each of our members, progress against our mission would not be possible.



Chair
Dr Astha Tomar

Committee members

- Dr Agnew Alexander
- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Ms De Backman-Hoyle
- Dr Peggy Brown, AO
- Dr Nicholas Burns
- Dr Ava Carter
- Dr David Chapman
- Dr Lyn Chiem
- Dr Patrick Clarke
- A/Prof. Mathew Coleman
- Prof. Valsa Eapen
- Dr Ben-Sion Elijah
- Prof. Brett Emmerson, AM
- Dr Gary Galambos
- Dr Rebecca Graham
- Dr Pramudie Gunaratne
- Dr Vinesh Gupta
- Prof. Richard Harvey
- A/Prof. Salam Hussain
- Prof. Richard Kanaan
- A/Prof. Robert Kaplan
- A/Prof. John Kasinathan
- Prof. Steve Kisely
- A/Prof. Raju Lakshmana
- Dr Eileen Lavranos
- Dr Mark Lawrence
- Dr David Lie
- Dr Sylvia Lim-Gibson
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- Dr Muruges Nidyananda
- Dr Claire Paterson
- Dr Daniel Pellen
- Dr Georgia Ramsden
- Dr John Reilly
- A/Prof. Denise Riordan
- Dr John Robertson
- A/Prof. Simon Stafrace
- Dr Hiran Thabrew
- Dr Astha Tomar
- Dr Jennifer Torr
- A/Prof. Melanie Turner
- Dr Ajay Vijaykrishnan
- Dr Angelo Virgona
- Dr Paul Vroegop
- Dr Marshall Watson
- Dr Elise Witter
- Prof. Richard Newton

Member Representative Committee reports

Bi-national Committee for Trainees (BCT)



Chair
Dr Georgia Ramsden

Committee members

- Dr Ashna Basu
- Dr Samuel Baxter
- Dr Nicola Campbell
- Dr Eleanor Clarke
- Dr Joshua Flavell
- Dr Olivia Harley
- Dr Catherine Hayter
- Dr Natalie Hunt
- Dr James Li
- Dr Stephen McManis
- Dr Michael O'Rawe
- Dr Louise Owen
- Dr Jarrad Paul
- Dr Georgia Ramsden
- Dr Kiran Sharma
- Dr Amanda Thomas
- Dr Mischa Tosswill
- Dr Alexander Wilson
- Dr Evan Wilson
- Dr Elise Witter
- Dr Andrew Wren

In May, the BCT farewelled outgoing committee members and welcomed eight new jurisdictional representatives. Working closely with the Trainees' Advisory Council (TAC), the BCT has continued discussions on and advocated for trainee interests in relation to accreditation of training in Western Australia, the introduction of the Independent Observed Clinical Activities (IOCA)s, equity issues related to the Psychotherapy Written Case (PWC) and safety of trainees when working after hours.

Examinations and assessments will always be a hot topic for trainees. Members of both the BCT and TAC continue to work to understand the challenges of the PWC for trainees bi-nationally (with the intention to survey trainees, supervisors and DOTs more formally) and subsequently work to address these issues. The BCT has welcomed a delay in the implementation of IOCA)s in order to smooth the transition. It is anticipated that discussions regarding other assessments will continue next year.

In October, the TAC heard concerns from trainees about safety in the after-hours space and has escalated these concerns to the BCT for further discussion and action. Again, this will require more work to understand the conditions in different locations.

Other work included providing feedback that has contributed to a revamped orientation process for new trainees, as well as for trainees joining both the TAC and BCT as trainee representatives. Effort is being made to communicate the work of both committees through the Training and Assessment newsletter after each meeting.

Australia and New Zealand Psychiatrists with International Qualifications Committee (ANZPIQC)

The long-awaited name change for our representative group will help address some of the negative attitudes towards Fellows and SIMGs who have qualified outside of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The Committee has been working to address some of the intrinsic issues around fairness and equity faced by Psychiatrists with International Qualifications (PIQs) in Fellowship examinations, SIMG pathways and the new expedited specialist registration pathway.

We are well represented on the RANZCP's Racism Awareness Steering Group to assist with identifying areas in which the College can address discrimination in its policies and practices, and advocate for change in workplaces.

To better identify the needs of the representative group, a comprehensive survey to measure the contribution of PIQs to psychiatry and the challenges they have faced on the way is being developed. Work is also underway to clearly identify the PIQ status within the College membership database, especially for those who came in prior to the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) regulation changes affecting recognition and engagement.

The launch of the new-look College website has provided the Committee with an opportunity to look at how we engage with the wider representative group and what support and information we can make available through the dedicated [ANZPIQ webpage](#). Progressive work on this webpage will continue in 2025.



Chair
Dr Ajay Vijayakrishnan

Committee members

- Dr Emma Crampin
- Dr Varuni De Silva
- Dr Shavindra Dias
- Dr Pravin Dullur
- Dr Gagan Garg
- Dr Darshanie Gunaratne
- Dr Hammad Mahmoud
- Dr Samuele Manfrinati
- Dr Lynne Oldman
- Dr Sachin Rai
- Prof. Saddichha Sahoo
- Dr Leonardo Sauaia
- Dr Suman Sinha
- Dr Aja Vijayakrishnan

RANZCP Foundation Committee report



RANZCP
Foundation

Transforming mental health care,
creating a world of potential



Chair
Associate Professor John Allan

Committee members

- A/Prof. John Allan
- Prof. Gerard Byrne
- Prof. Valsa Eapen
- Prof. Hinemoa Elder, MNZM
- Prof. Anthony Harris, AM
- Dr Rory Hutchinson
- Dr Michael Keem
- Dr Nick Kowalenko
- A/Prof. Vinay Lakra
- Prof. Gin Malhi
- Prof. Helen Milroy, AM
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- A/Prof. Louise Nash
- A/Prof. Shuichi Suetani
- A/Prof. Nicola Warren

The RANZCP Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the College. We award grants and scholarships to support world-class research and the next generation of psychiatrists.

Although it is still early days, the Foundation is growing, and we are proud to support more psychiatrists and the development of our profession.

Our fundraising

The Foundation raised \$376,035 in 2024. We are very grateful to all our supporters who have helped us achieve this terrific result.

A key new initiative was the launch of our Foundation Partners Program, giving members the opportunity to participate in the development of new funding opportunities. We sincerely thank our inaugural partners whose vision and generosity enabled the creation of a new PhD Scholarship in September.

We also ran two successful masterclasses, and we thank the speakers for generously sharing their wisdom - Associate Professor Soumya Basu, Professor Richard Porter, and Professor Peter Nestor in 'Cognition across and the lifespan' and Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, AM, Dr Michelle Smith, and Professor Anne Buist in 'Hormones, bumps and bubs'.

Our impact

The Foundation awarded grants totalling \$245,000 to 17 very worthy recipients.

Thanks to our Foundation Partners and Dr Roth Trisno and family, two PhD scholarships were awarded to Dr Sean Halstead and Dr Jacqueline Huber.

Five Aboriginal doctors were sponsored by Dr Alagappa Arumugam, AM and Dr Banu Arumugam to participate in the AMA Emerging Leaders Program.

The Beverley Raphael Investigator Grant is designed to encourage those new to research, and seven young researchers with exciting futures received this grant to assist with small-scale studies.

Other awards included the Pat, Toni and Peter Kinsman Research Scholarship, Catalyst Grants, Early Research Career Grants, and the annual New Zealand Wānanga.

Our vision is *Transforming mental health care, creating a world of potential*. If you want to contribute, please contact us at foundation@ranzcp.org.

Tu Te Akaaka Roa - New Zealand National Committee report

Tu Te Akaaka Roa – New Zealand National Committee

In addition to opportunistic advocacy, Tu Te Akaaka Roa continues to focus on seven planned workstreams of workforce development, affiliate engagement, cultural competence and safety, preparation for a new Mental Health Bill, interfacing with primary care, the Abuse in Care Royal Commission, and communication.

Following our training pipeline report, the New Zealand Government announced an increase in funded training places to 50 per year. Exploration of national coordination of psychiatry training and new house officer runs in community mental health services is underway. Surveys of members who left public for private practice and locum work have been completed and data will be used to address retention issues.

The Board has expressed support to revisit the constitutional issue of Affiliate voting rights. Further work is needed to improve the pathway to Fellowship for longer-standing Affiliates.

We ran Takarangi training workshops and contributed to developing a binational education module. We also surveyed members and are drafting a response to the Select Committee regarding the new Mental Health Bill, noting there is currently no mention of psychiatrists in the draft Bill.

We are surveying psychiatrists who have worked in primary care to inform future training needs related to specialist support of primary care services.

Following the apology to survivors of abuse at Lake Alice Hospital, we are developing an education resource for trainees and trying to update information-sharing agreements with regulatory agencies.

Bi-monthly newsletters and regular media commentary on workforce issues have been undertaken with support from the RANZCP Media and Advocacy team.



Chair
Dr Hiran Thabrew



Tu Te Akakka Roa – New Zealand National Committee members

- Dr Christopher Ansley
- Mr Ron Baker, MNZM
- Mr Wayne Blissett
- Dr David Codyre, MNZM
- Dr Arran Culver
- Dr Alan Faulkner
- Dr Oliver Hansby
- Dr Marcel Hediger
- Dr Aram Kim
- Dr Mark Lawrence
- Dr Blair Leslie
- Dr Sue Mackersey
- Dr Alison Masters
- Ms Moe Milne
- Dr Michael O’Rawe
- Dr Claire Paterson
- Prof. Sarah Romans
- Dr Emma Schwarcz
- Dr Suman Sinha
- Ms Carolyn Swanson
- Dr Hiran Thabrew
- Dr Mischa Tosswill

Chairs of the New Zealand-based Faculty and Section Subcommittees

- Dr Jeremy McMinn
Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry
- Dr John Gregson
Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Dr Adam Sims
Faculty of Consultation–Liaison Psychiatry
- Dr Shailesh Kumar
Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry
- Dr Duncan Neilson
Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age
- Dr James Gardiner
Section of Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry
- Dr Christopher Gale
Section of Electroconvulsive Therapy and Neurostimulation
- Dr David Bathgate
Section of Intellectual and Development Disabilities



TOP: Dr Astha Tomar, RANZCP President-Elect with members at the RANZCP New Zealand Conference 2024

BOTTOM: The Hon. Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health of New Zealand and Prof. Susanna Every-Palmer, RANZCP Fellow and Co-covonor of the RANZCP New Zealand Conference 2024



Australian Branch Committee reports

Australian Capital Territory



Chair
Associate
Professor
Denise Riordan

Membership engagement increased during the year through a range of well-attended educational and social activities, and ACT members' work and achievements were highlighted in a series of published interviews.

The Branch has developed and refined our policy and advocacy focus, and proactively engaged with stakeholders. Key areas include:

- Mental health workforce – investment in maintaining and growing the psychiatry workforce and the broader mental health workforce.
- Clinical input in health service planning and development – consistent consultation is necessary to ensure there is an equitable distribution of services based on need across the Territory.
- Support for families and carers – investment is needed for targeted services to support carers and families of those with complex and severe mental health conditions.

A planning workshop was held in September to refine policy priority areas, and discuss local CPD events and membership engagement. The Branch also collaborated with Canberra Health Service in four educational and networking events covering

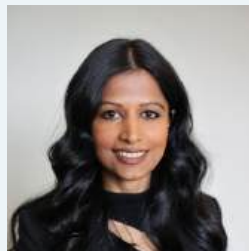
a range of topics including primary health, neurodiversity, neurostimulation and CL psychiatry, and the future of mental health services.

A/Prof. Ajeet Singh, the ACT Travelling Scholar, presented on 'Psychotropic pharmacogenetics – entering routine clinical care comprehensive primer for clinicians' and 'Innovations in psychiatry – separating wheat from chaff summation', including reflections from an expert panel discussion at the RANZCP 2024 Congress.

ACT Branch Committee members

- Dr Anthony Baker
- Dr Arjun Khaira
- Dr Rodney Blanch
- Dr Julia Lane
- Dr Louise Brightman
- Dr James Li
- Dr Ava Carter
- Dr May Matias
- Dr Suneel Chamoli
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- Dr Nadine Fox
- A/Prof. Denise Riordan
- Dr Dharshanie Gunaratne
- Dr Azra Sabir
- Dr Florian Wertenaue

New South Wales



Chair
Dr Pramudie
Gunaratne

The key priorities for the Branch were the psychiatry workforce crisis and the gap analysis of all NSW state-funded mental health services, across community, outpatient, and inpatient systems and services.

The workforce crisis severity intensified in 2024 with staff specialist vacancy rates continuing to rise, adversely impacting member clinical workloads, trainee supervision, morale and services to the community. Despite ongoing advocacy, little substantive remedial action was forthcoming from government. The matter escalated and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (NSW) initiated negotiations directly with the NSW Government on behalf of public sector staff specialists.

The Branch, as a member of the Mental Health Alliance, was in regular consultation with Government ensuring they meet their commitment to a comprehensive gap analysis. On 18 November, the NSW Mental Health Minister committed to completing the gap analysis by year-end 2024.

A subpoena from the [Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding](#) sought wide-ranging documentary evidence on training selection processes, accreditation assessments, the RANZCP Fellowship program, and workforce.

The Branch facilitated a comprehensive response, provided a submission and the Branch Committee Chair appeared before the Inquiry as an expert witness.

The annual gala dinner featured the NSW Minister for Mental Health as guest speaker, and celebrated Associate Professor Loyola McLean and Professor Philip Hazell as joint recipients of the 2024 Meritorious Service Award.

The Branch hosted a weekend rural psychiatry trainee forum on 16–17 November with 18 participants from across rural NSW.

NSW Branch Committee members

- Dr Lauren Amor
- Dr Josef McDonald
- Dr James Bae
- Dr Rebecca Moss
- Dr Ashna Basu
- Dr Sachin Rai
- Dr Kathryn Drew
- Dr Stephen Rosenman
- Dr Pramudie Gunaratne
- Dr Angelo Virgona
- Dr Saretta Lee
- Dr Choong-Siew Yong

Northern Territory



Chair
**Dr David
Chapman**

The Branch has focused on building stakeholder relationships to progress priority advocacy areas, including the psychiatry workforce, specialist community-based mental health, and forensic mental health. Highlights include hosting an advocacy event with the Hon Selena Uibo (the then Minister for Mental Health) and Mr Bill Yan (the then Shadow Minister for Mental Health) plus various stakeholders.

We also delivered a pre-election advocacy campaign with a range of stakeholders, and a pre-election media release and media engagement led to the Branch's first appearance in Northern Territory (NT) News and an ABC Radio interview. Additionally, we provided expert input through a submission to the Draft Mental Health Act 2024 and a supplementary submission for the development of a standalone Forensic Mental Health Act.

The NT Training Program has had good retention amongst those graduating in the NT, and this is aided by consistent Director of Training (DOT) appointments spanning Darwin and Alice Springs.

The Branch welcomed Professor Mark Bellgrove who presented on 'Emerging trends in ADHD

diagnosis and treatment' and 'State-of-the-art in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD) - genes, cognition and brain networks'.

The 2024 Travelling Scholar, Professor Murray Esler, presented on 'Direct measurement of brain serotonin turnover: Bringing the "brain chemical imbalance" paradigm of psychiatric illness up to date' and 'Mental stress causes cardiovascular disease'.

NT Branch Committee members

- Dr David Chapman
- Dr Sarah Dorrington
- Dr Gagan Garg
- Dr Nimalee Kanakkahewa
- Dr Tamoor Mirza
- Prof. David Mitchell
- Dr Femi Ogeleye
- A/Prof. Robert Parker
- Mr Lachlan Rowe
- Dr Briony Willcocks
- Dr Andrew Wren

Queensland



Chair
**Professor Brett
Emmerson, AM**

Following the change of government in Queensland, the Branch congratulated Premier David Crisafulli and the Liberal National Party, and will seek to meet with Timothy Nicholls, the newly appointed Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, to discuss our [Election Priorities 2024](#). These focus on the development of the psychiatry workforce, investment in 2000 community-based mental health staff and provision of 374 new psychiatric inpatient beds.

We are pleased that the new government committed to continue with the current mental health plan and payroll levy. The Branch is asking the government to commit to investing \$830 million per year. The levy is expected to raise around [\\$530 million](#) in 2024–25. Additionally, the Branch is calling on government to grow funding by [\\$300 million](#) and provide full transparency on how and where levy funds will be spent.

We discussed the issue of medicinal cannabis misuse when we met with the Queensland Chief Health Officer, the Chief Psychiatrist, and the Australian Medical Association Queensland. We also agreed to write to the Therapeutic Goods Administration asking for medicinal cannabis to be tightly regulated (as other drugs of dependence are) by significantly reducing tetrahydrocannabinol containing products.

The 2025 Congress preparation is well underway and will be held in early May on the Gold Coast.

The Branch hosted several successful events, including its Annual Dinner in March, CME weekend in July and Bostock Oration in November. The Branch respectfully thanks Vicki Willis, Sarah Kereama and Nada Martinovic for their hard work.

QLD Branch Committee members

- Dr Janet Bayley
- Dr Shavindra Dias
- Prof. Brett Emmerson, AM
- Dr Hitesh Joshi
- Prof. Stephen Kisley
- Dr Abigail Lane
- Dr Christopher Lilley
- Dr Kirsten McMahon
- Dr Vikas Moudgil
- A/Prof. Stephen Parker
- A/Prof. Gail Robinson
- Dr Divya Kiran Sharma
- A/Prof. Shuichi Suetani
- Dr Joe Varghese
- A/Prof. Nicola Warren
- Dr Elise Witter

South Australia



Chair
Dr Patrick
Clarke

Our work has focused on two major policy and advocacy priorities, being the South Australia (SA) Psychiatry Workforce Plan and the Pre-Budget Submission.

The workforce plan intends to deliver a data-driven psychiatry workforce strategy, with quantitative models of current and future community demand for psychiatry services, and the document's public release will be led by the SA Government.

In our 2025–26 Pre-Budget Submission, the Branch focused on growing the workforce, committing to a 10-year rural mental health services plan and workforce strategy, and improving child and adolescent mental health care by funding additional Child and Adolescent positions.

Membership engagement highlights were the SA Branch Conference, which featured neurodiversity and service provision for the neurodiverse community with Prof. Julian Trollor as the keynote speaker. Our annual Gala Dinner took place at Adelaide Zoo, and we honoured Dr Tony Davis with the Meritorious Service Award, Dr Taryn Cowain with the Anne E Loughlin Memorial Prize, and welcomed 12 new Fellows.

The Barton Pope Lecture 'Raising the age of criminal responsibility: Debunking myths, exploring facts and how do we address the needs of

young people and the community' was a panel discussion with Dr Marshall Watson, Fellow and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist; Shona Reid, the SA Guardian for Children and Young People; Marie Shaw KC and Ashum Owen, CEO of Wakwakurna Kanyini. For the first time, the lecture was live streamed and open to national and bi-national registrations.

SA Branch Committee members

- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Dr Eleanor Clarke
- Dr Patrick Clarke
- Dr Callum Deakin
- Dr Varuni de Silva
- Dr Michael Fyfe
- Dr Andrew Giam
- Dr Adele Jackson
- Dr Vineet Juneja
- Prof. Sharon Lawn
- Dr Devon Marshman
- Dr Michael Nance
- Dr Thomas Paterson
- Dr Lynette Rose
- A/Prof. Melanie Turner
- Dr Marshall Watson

Tasmania



Chair
Dr Ben-Sion
Elijah

The Tasmania Branch has focused on building stakeholder relationships to progress priority areas including building the psychiatry workforce, reforming the *Mental Health Act 2013*, and increasing specialty mental health services. We have engaged with the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and have worked closely with a Parliamentary Secretary to support the progress of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the assessment and treatment of ADHD. The Branch has provided submissions and advocacy letters on suicide prevention, workforce issues, and parental, perinatal, maternal, and infant mental health to continuously contribute to policy development and reform.

Under the Branch's new CPD program of activities, we ran several workshops and events on topics including ADHD, metabolic disorder and mental health, suicide prevention and conversion disorder. The Branch also held our biennial conference in Launceston with a packed program of local, interstate, and international speakers, reaching registration capacity. Dr Eric Ratcliff was presented with the 2024 Branch Meritorious Service Award at the conference dinner. We also held the annual event for trainees and supervisors to mark their achievements over the past year.

The Branch continues to build engagement with members and stakeholders including increasing advocacy around key priority areas. We will deliver more exciting educational events in 2025 including in collaboration with other organisations and medical specialties to increase efficiency in the mental health system.

TAS Branch Committee members

- Dr Sonny Atherton
- Dr Joanna Bakas
- Prof. David Castle
- Dr Ben Elijah
- Dr Lev Fridgant
- Dr Katja Lindemann
- Dr Hammad Mahmoud
- Dr Sadhana Pande
- Dr Honor Pennington
- Dr Anil Reddy
- Dr Alexander Wilson

Victoria



Chair
Associate
Professor
Simon Stafrace

The Branch welcomed new committee members and continues to maintain a forward-looking vision. Through connections with trainees, Fellows and stakeholders, we see a unique opportunity for collaborative leadership to enhance equity and sustain momentum in mental health reform. We hosted multiple events welcoming psychiatrists and trainees, strengthening relationships with Victorian stakeholders and delivering key policy points to support the psychiatry workforce.

The Victorian Psychiatry Leadership Framework was launched, developed with our members and those with lived experience. This Framework emphasises self-leadership and ethical, collaborative practices. Our 2024–25 budget submission advocated for increased workforce investment, integrated services for severe mental illness, and a comprehensive clinical and research strategy. The state budget, although fiscally challenged, reflected a commitment to reform with targeted investments in eating disorder services, mental health hubs, graduate clinician training, and regional facilities.

Celebratory events fostered camaraderie among Victorian members and showcased advancements in psychiatric practice. The Victorian Branch Conference in Lorne featured presentations on psychodynamic psychiatry, intellectual disability, artificial intelligence, ADHD, and leadership.

Congratulations to Professor Dan Lubman, the 2024 Meritorious Award winner, who shared insights on addiction psychiatry, and to Professor Manjula O'Connor, recipient of the Premier's Award for her exemplary and tireless work on dowry abuse and family violence.

The New and Retiring Fellows dinner filled me with gratitude for the support of colleagues during transitions in our lives and careers. Our profession is in good hands, and together, our fellowship provides strength and resilience in facing future challenges.

VIC Branch Committee members

- Dr Lee Allen
- Dr Jennifer Babb
- Dr Dominika Baetens
- Ms Katrina Clarke
- Dr Subhash Das
- Dr Ganesan Duraiswamy
- Dr Nardine Elzahaby
- Prof. Megan Galbally
- Dr Olivia Harley
- Dr Peter Heffernan
- Dr Rajlaxmi Khopade
- A/Prof. Samantha Loi
- Prof. Richard Newton
- A/Prof. Hieu Pham
- Dr Thomas Sellitto
- Dr Ajit Selvendra
- A/Prof. Simon Stafrace
- Dr Astha Tomar
- Mx Emily Unity
- Dr Francesca Valmorbida McSteen
- Dr Ajay Vijayakrishnan
- Dr Amanda Young

Western Australia



Chair
Dr Murugesh
Nidyananda

The 2024 Western Australia (WA) Branch Conference in September 'Navigating complexity: from love and care to risk' was headlined by keynote speaker Professor Pat McGorry, AO. The conference was attended by 140 delegates, who attended not only to gain new knowledge, skills and insights, but also for the great collegiality that was on offer.

The WA Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry held their annual symposium in October, with 70 delegates attending in person and 40 online. The symposium was themed 'Novel psychoactives and the new frontier in addiction', and included local, interstate, and international presenters. Surveyed participants reported that they benefited from up-to-date research for use in their clinical settings to educate clients and reduce harm.

The RANZCP signed a Statement of Intent with the Department of Health as a commitment to address pathways for the psychiatry workforce in WA. The Branch has had a strong year for government engagement on workforce issues, with specific focus on improving training pathways, advocating for additional training posts, and system reform measures that close the gaps in the service system. We are providing substantial input into the Mental Health Commission's new state mental

health strategy and a pre-budget submission with a rationale for comprehensive investment into the training pipeline.

Our work on social policy issues included support for gun law reform, with direct input into the drafting of guidelines and regulations; advocacy for youth justice reform; and a submission endorsing the ban on harmful conversion practices.

WA Branch Committee members

- Dr Kalliste Black
- Dr Emma Crampin
- Dr Matthew Davidson
- Dr Julia Feutrill
- A/Prof. Yulia Furlong
- Dr Chinar Goel
- Dr Kyle Hoath
- Dr Binu Jayawardena
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- Dr Rebecca Ng
- Dr Murugesh Nidyananda
- Dr Jarrad Paul
- Dr Kavita Seth
- Dr Benjamin Sketcher
- Ms Sharon Taylor
- Dr Daniela Vecchio
- Dr Ajay Velayudhan
- Dr Michael Verheggen



RANZCP members enjoying local events throughout the year.



Faculty highlights

Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry



Chair
Dr John Reilly

Associate Professor Shalini Arunogiri concluding her time as Chair of the Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry meant the loss of great knowledge and energy, however her ongoing guidance to the Committee is providing continuity and expertise.

The Faculty continues to advocate for improved policy in various PBS prescribing matters. Recent changes in opioid dependence, medicinal cannabis, psychostimulants, and nicotine treatment highlight challenges for all psychiatrists in the prescribing of psychoactive substances with higher potential for harmful use.

Addiction training capability and experiences varies markedly across all psychiatrists and shows the need for further consideration of training experiences. The harmful use of substances and addiction present in many areas of psychiatric practice may be used to support learning for our psychiatry trainees. The Faculty will further consider specific options and how these may need to be targeted to Branches and jurisdictions, and how we can work collaboratively with other Faculties to expand such capability.

Committee members

- A/Prof. Shalini Arunogiri
- Dr Robert Bell
- A/Prof. Mark Daghish
- Dr Bernard Hickey
- Dr Serena Hossain
- Dr Basanth Kenchaiah
- Dr Robert Lundin
- Dr Robert May
- Dr Sam McBride
- Dr Jeremy McMinn
- Dr Vicky Phan
- Dr David Plevin
- Dr John Reilly
- Dr Kelly Ridley

Faculty of Adult Psychiatry



Chair
Dr Agnew
Alexander

The Faculty continued to advocate for the Advanced Training Certificate to better recognise specialised training in adult psychiatry. Currently, the certificate remains generic in nature, and we'd prefer one of specific relevance to trainees. This initiative aims to enhance the professional development of our future psychiatrists.

In August, we successfully held a joint conference with the Section of Private Practice Psychiatry and the ADHD Network in Sydney. Due to its success, we are organising another joint conference for 2025 in Adelaide, to foster knowledge sharing among our disciplines.

We welcomed new committee members Dr Surabhi Sinha, Dr Dharshanie Gunaratne, and Dr Ashlea White. We acknowledge the contributions of outgoing members Dr Michelle Atchison and Dr Bianca Dinu, whose efforts have greatly benefited our Faculty.

To keep our membership informed and foster engagement, we provide a regular newsletter detailing the latest news, initiatives, and developments. The Faculty remains committed to advancing our field, advocating for our members, and enhancing the quality of care.

Committee members

- Dr Agnew Alexander
- Dr Muthur Anand
- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Dr Suneel Chamoli
- Dr David Chapman
- Dr Bianca Dinu
- Dr Dharshanie Gunaratne
- Dr Peter Heffernan
- Dr Karuppiah Jagadheesan
- A/Prof. Balaji Motamarri
- Prof. Nagesh Pai
- Dr Suman Sinha
- Dr Surabhi Sinha
- Dr Georgina Weir
- Dr Ashlea White

Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



Chair
Professor
Valsa Eapen

The Faculty has been very active in supporting initiatives to increase interest and awareness about child psychiatry as a career via the Psychiatry Interest Forum (PIF) and the International Fulbright Program for medical students. This included ongoing seminars, journal clubs, and movie nights for trainees at different levels, from medical students to junior medical officers.

It is pleasing to note that we are seeing higher numbers of Advanced Trainees commencing the training program.

We are also actively supporting discussions with the Paediatrics and Child Health Division of the Royal Australian College of Physicians to develop a roadmap for child mental health service delivery as a continuum from primary to specialist services and capacity building.

We are mindful of the increased negative mental health impacts among young people regarding changing climate concerns. Significant contributions have been made by several members via the Doctors for Environment Mental

Health Special Interest Group including within the 'Race to Resilience' framework. Efforts are in progress to survey Faculty members to better understand their current clinical experience and to develop relevant resources.

Committee members

- Dr Narmali Bandaranayake
- Dr Ankur Chikara
- Prof. Valsa Eapen
- A/Prof. Tatjana Ewais
- Dr David Furrows
- Dr Gagan Garg
- Dr Timothy Ghan
- Dr John Gregson
- Dr Michelle Hellyer
- Dr Kenneth Hooper
- Dr Jaroslaw Hryniewicki
- Dr Nick Kowalenko
- Prof. Brett McDermott, AM
- Dr Donovan Moncur
- Dr Liam O'Connor
- Dr Matthias Regner
- Dr Yolisha Singh
- Dr Sally Tregenza
- Dr Afraz Zaman

Faculty of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry



Chair
Dr Paul
Vroegop

The Faculty is committed to evidence-based, high-quality treatment for people with comorbid psychiatric and general health needs. Advocating for collaborative approaches with our communities, other healthcare stakeholders and health system leadership is important, as evidenced in the engagement with the RANZCP Emergency Department Steering Group.

In 2025, we will complete a position statement for the RANZCP which clearly defines Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry (CLP) and the role that Consultation-Liaison (C-L) services play within the health system; drivers, stakeholders and outcomes in CLP are diverse and do not sit only within mental health services. This will support the development of meaningful data collection, benchmarking, and advocacy across Australasian hospitals.

The 2025 Faculty of Consultation-Liaison Conference will be held from 12–14 June in Noosa, and we look forward to welcoming psychiatrists and other health professionals to engage with the theme of complex effects of trauma on physical and mental health.

Committee members

- Prof. Rebecca Anglin
- Dr Catherine Chesterman
- Dr Sara Ghaly
- Dr John Hopkins
- Dr Daniel Hubik
- Dr Bill Lu
- Dr Catherine Mason
- Dr John O'Callaghan
- A/Prof. Robert Parker
- Dr Carol Silberberg
- Dr Adam Sims
- Dr Paul Vroegop
- Dr Andreja Vuchkov

Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry



Chair
Dr Vinesh Gupta

In 2024, the Faculty has been concerned with workforce retention and attraction, which has guided our activities in promoting the subspecialty widely and having a voice in service development and standards.

The Faculty has strongly supported member education with live and online events in NSW, Victoria and jointly with the Queensland Bar Association and Queensland FFP court craft training program. We have progressed a prison mental health advisory group.

The Faculty committee represents all jurisdictions and trainees in its makeup. We have met regularly with strong attendance and worked on reviewing position statements on clinical and human rights issues, scoping a bi-national review of service standards, Indigenous scholarships, and a travelling education program.

Our conference was combined with the Section of Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry on the Gold Coast. This was a great success, particularly the strong local speaker lineup and support for students, Junior Medical Officers and registrars to attend.

Committee members

- Dr Andrew Bailey
- Dr Justin Barry-Walsh
- Dr William Brereton
- Dr Adam Brett
- A/Prof. Raj Darjee
- Dr Mrigendra Das
- A/Prof. Andrew Ellis
- Dr Vinesh Gupta
- Dr Owen Haeney
- A/Prof. Scott Harden
- Dr Shailesh Kumar
- Dr Trevor Ma
- Dr Christina Matthews
- Dr Natalie Puchalski
- Dr Jacqueline Rakov
- Dr Yolisha Singh
- Dr Calum Smith

Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age



Chair
Dr David Lie

The Faculty chiefly focuses on supporting education, promoting training in old age psychiatry, and advocating for the mental health and well-being of older adults, primarily by contributing to professional submissions and statements.

The educational highlight was the 2024 annual conference, held in November in Christchurch, featuring keynote addresses by Professors Sube Banerjee and Rob Howard who addressed core issues in dementia, depression, and psychosis. The conference also covered a wide range of other topics. The meeting was opened by New Zealand's first Mental Health Minister, the Hon Matt Doocey. Creative arts featured strongly throughout the program.

In an ageing world and with major reforms looming in the training of psychiatrists, we advocate strongly for robust training and experiences for trainees including supervision from psychiatrists with subspecialist training and or experience. We welcome queries from anyone interested in learning more about our activities and how we can assist those working towards better mental health for older people.

Committee members

- Dr Meenal Aggarwal
- A/Prof. Yoram Barak
- A/Prof. Gary Cheung
- Dr Noel Collins
- Dr Bronwyn Copeland
- Dr Matthew Fasnacht
- Dr Zain Hindawi
- Dr David Lie
- A/Prof. Samantha Loi
- Dr Ros Mulholland
- Dr Duncan Neilson
- Dr Megan Nitz
- Dr Anneliese Sayes
- A/Prof. Anne Wand

Faculty of Psychotherapy



Chair

**Dr John
Robertson**

The Faculty gratefully received the [Anna Freud Centre report](#). This world-expert, three-pronged study clearly demonstrates the efficacy of psychodynamic psychotherapy for mood disorders. The Faculty congratulates and thanks the College for commissioning the report, in response to the 2022 MRGM, and for posting it for members on the College website. The study vindicates the concerns expressed by our members about the 2021 Mood Disorders Clinical Practice Guidelines, and we now look forward to the study's further publication and broader distribution. Ex Veritate Salus.

The study further reinforces the need to improve psychotherapeutic training for all trainees and practitioners. Accordingly, the Faculty has written to the College, and relevant education and examination committees, passing on concerns expressed by the TAC on barriers to successful completion of the Psychotherapy Written Case.

Lastly, the Faculty held a virtual annual conference on Saturday 23 November, emphasising the importance of the lived experience perspective, amongst other topics.

Committee members

- Dr Andrew Christensen
- Dr Luke Ciantar
- Dr Michael Daubney
- Mr Sam Farr
- Dr Tiago Gandra
- Dr Chris Garvie
- A/Prof. Anthony Korner
- Dr Catherine Ludbrook
- A/Prof. Loyola McLean
- Dr John Robertson
- Dr Sara Temelkovski

Section highlights

Section of Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry



Chair

Associate Professor
John Kasinathan

Advocacy for the well-being of children in the face of changes in successive governments across both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand has been the focus of the Section, as these governments have sadly chosen to adopt more punitive measures and/or actively decrease the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The Section has advocated in diverse public arenas amid concerns that criminalising children at younger ages will result in worse health and social outcomes for adolescents, their families, and communities.

The Section will continue to seek ways to take an active advocacy voice for evidence-based approaches for adolescents interacting with the criminal justice system. The joint Section conference with the Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry was a success, with strong adolescent forensic topics and healthy attendance at the Gold Coast in October. A standalone SCAFP conference is scheduled for March 2025 in Wellington themed 'Another brick in the wall'.

Committee members

- Dr Renato Assini
- Dr Brendan Daugherty
- Dr Adam Deacon
- Dr Enys Delmage
- Dr Teresa Flower
- Dr James Gardiner
- A/Prof. Scott Harden
- A/Prof. John Kasinathan
- Dr Joey Le
- Dr Katie Niven
- Dr Annie Parsons
- Dr Yolisha Singh
- Dr Marshall Watson

Section of Early Career Psychiatrists



Chair

Dr Rebecca
Graham

Encouraged by the attendance at various events held throughout the year, the Section has turned its attention towards adding to the list of education, collaboration, and networking event opportunities.

In addition to the 'Welcome Aboard' event for those transitioning into Fellowship, and a networking event with trainees at Congress, we collaborated with the Section of Private Practice Psychiatry on a pre-Congress workshop on private practice. The webinar on 'Transition to private practice' was well attended which bodes well for next year's one-day online conference on matters relevant to early career psychiatrists. The Section is also working to hold more local events with speakers which have proved successful in the past.

There were positive steps with our advocacy within the College to change the definition of 'early career' from 5 years to 7 years. This adaption will bring the College in line with the World Psychiatric Association to improve continuity of membership on the Section committee.

Committee members

- Dr Alan Altham
- Dr Nicola Campbell
- Dr Riteeka Deshpande
- Dr Julian Dodemaide
- Dr Rebecca Graham
- Dr Daniel Heard
- Dr Elizabeth Lun
- Dr Melissa Renzenbrink
- Dr Ramya Vadivel
- Dr Michael Weightman
- Dr Briony Willcocks

Section of Electroconvulsive Therapy and Neurostimulation



Chair
Associate Professor
Salam Hussain

Significant progress has been made in several areas of importance to the Section. The Advanced Training Certificate in ECT and Neurostimulation was developed through regular meetings between the working group, Training Project Manager and College members to finalise training requirements and EPAs. The final proposal is set for presentation to relevant committees and the Board in 2025.

The Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Professional Practice Guidelines (PPGs) were completed and published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* after extensive consultation. Similarly, the first RANZCP Ketamine Therapy PPGs were developed, approved, and submitted for publication, while ECT PPG updates are expected by mid-2025. Additionally, the rTMS position statement is being updated to serve various audiences.

A working group is reviewing Stellate Ganglia Block therapy for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Challenges include the burden on Section experts and College staff, leading to proposals for a reward system, and proposing an activity-based budget allocation to Faculties and Sections. Stability in College staffing is also emphasised to streamline processes and enhance retention.

Committee members

- Dr Suneel Chamoli
- Prof. Paul Fitzgerald
- Dr Christopher Gale
- Dr Ashu Gandhi
- Dr Deepak Garg
- Dr Shane Gill
- A/Prof. Salam Hussain
- Dr Binu Jayawardena
- Prof. Colleen Loo
- Dr David Nguyen
- Dr Subramanian Purushothaman
- Dr Shanthi Sarma
- Dr Brett Simpson
- Dr Jeremy Smith
- Dr Alan Weiss

Section of Leadership and Management



Chair
Dr Lyn Chiem

We are energised by the renewed interest in the Section and have welcomed a number of new members to the committee. We would like to thank A/Prof. Robert Parker as the outgoing Chair for his valuable contributions over many years.

The Section has been busy planning its activities for the next 12 months, informed by the results of the members' survey that was distributed in July 2024. The Section has continued to develop podcasts with eminent psychiatrist leaders across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand which form part of the College's *Psych Matters* podcast series. We will also be working with the Victorian Branch to explore opportunities for the future direction of the Victorian Psychiatrist Leadership Framework.

Committee members

- Dr Lyn Chiem
- Dr Julian Dodemaide
- Dr Pramudie Gunaratne
- A/Prof. Vinay Lakra
- Dr Mark McAndrew
- Dr Helen McGowan
- A/Prof. Balaji Motamarri
- Dr Eddie Mullen
- Dr Nick O'Connor
- A/Prof. Robert Parker
- Prof. Alan Rosen
- Prof. Saddichha Sahoo
- Dr Ramya Vadivel
- Dr Raamvive Vivekanandam
- Dr James Zurek

Section of Neuropsychiatry



Chair

**Professor Richard
Kanaan**

For our annual conference this year, the Section hosted the International Neuropsychiatry Association's congress, the second time we have done so. The meeting was held in Melbourne in October and was attended by over 400 people across three days. An additional one-day workshop on 'Functional neurological disorder' was also held with over 250 attendees. The Section also entered into formal discussion with the College on development of a neuropsychiatry advanced training certificate.

Committee members

- Dr Gregory Finucane
- Dr Joshua Flavell
- Dr Neeraj Gupta
- A/Prof. Bradleigh Hayhow
- Prof. Richard Kanaan
- Dr Laurant Kang
- Dr Basil Mantzioris
- Prof. Harry McConnell
- Dr Adith Mohan
- Prof. Dennis Velakoulis

Section of Philosophy and Humanities



Chair

**Associate Professor
Robert Kaplan**

The Section has had a successful year in promoting our cause. We have put a notice to go in all Branch and Section announcements and this has attracted new members. Our pre-conference meeting at Congress in Canberra was a great success (special thanks to Sue Lutton!) and we will continue to do this on a regular basis. In addition, our upgraded newsletter has exciting articles and comments, so will develop into a must-read for all members. We look forward to further developments in the new year and, as ever, will promote the cause of philosophy and humanities as an important part of psychiatric practice.

Committee members

- Dr Andrew Howie
- Dr Neil Jeyasingam
- A/Prof. Robert Kaplan
- Dr Izaak Lim
- Dr Susan Lutton
- Dr Trevor Ma
- Dr Gorana Milosevic
- Dr Lieu Nguyen
- Prof. Saddichha Sahoo
- Dr Steven Stankevicius
- Dr Benjamin Vialle

Section of Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry



Chair
**Dr Sylvia
Lim-Gibson**

Priorities for the Section included the development of curriculum and a training program for a Certificate of Advanced Training in Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry. Advocacy around recognition of perinatal and infant psychiatry as an area of practice, and the eventual development of the Advanced Certificate will be part mitigation for the issue.

The Section has been heavily involved in working with the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority to advocate for appropriate funding for Mother Baby Units, and to recognise the higher level of resourcing needed for such units for them to meet the care needs of patients, their infants, and families.

The Section successfully hosted its inaugural conference in Victoria attended by 177 attendees from across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

We also worked with the RANZCP Foundation to present a successful masterclass on perinatal and women's mental health in December.

Committee members

- Dr Anastasia Braun
- Dr Liz Coventry
- Dr Ilona DiBella
- Prof. Megan Galbally
- Dr Emma Gray
- Dr Brendan Jansen
- Dr Nimalee Kanakkahewa
- Dr Sylvia Lim-Gibson
- Dr Stephanie Lorimer
- Dr Liz MacDonald
- Dr Kristine Mercuri
- Dr Gabrielle Ormiston
- Dr Anne-Marie Rees
- Dr Susan Roberts
- Ms Genevieve Whitlam

Section of Private Practice Psychiatry



Chair
**Dr Gary
Galambos**

The Section committee now has 14 members, filling all state jurisdictions after Dr Alexander Lim and Dr Nathan Jacobs joined.

Members volunteered for pre-Congress workshops, meetings, and a symposium in Canberra (May 2024) and our joint conference with the Faculty of Adult Psychiatry and ADHD Network (August 2024).

Dr George Blair-West developed educational materials on starting a private practice, and the Section worked on establishing an annual College Private Practice Award and successfully advocated for telehealth MBS item numbers to resolve post-COVID issues.

Following Dr Michelle Atchison's election to the Board, she was co-opted onto the committee and Dr Gary Galambos became Chair in June 2024. Dr Bill Pring and Dr Galambos joined the Clinical Outcome Indicators Working Group in September, with Dr Pring as Chair. Dr Padmini Howpage became the Section's representative on the MEC.

A working group was formed to explore private practice training models, enabling registrars to be supervised by private psychiatrists in consulting rooms, which informed the College's main pre-budget submission.

The private sector workforce focus highlighted gaps in multidisciplinary outpatient support and inpatient care disincentives. A Section of Private Practice Psychiatry membership survey assessed private practice psychiatry workforce issues.

Committee members

- Dr Michelle Atchison
- Dr George Blair-West
- Dr Campbell Emmerton
- Dr Gary Galambos
- Dr Deepak Garg
- Dr Christopher Garvie
- Dr Padmini Howpage
- Dr Ashar Khan
- Dr Renate Mundl
- Dr William Pring
- Dr Ashish Rana
- Prof. Sarah Romans
- Dr Joe Varghese
- Dr Emma Wills

Section of Psychiatry of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



Chair

Dr Jennifer Torr

A key focus for the Section was to prioritise the establishment of a Certificate of Advanced Training in response to the Disability Royal Commission's findings.

These highlighted several areas, including systemic neglect and discrimination against people with disability, and poor care within the health care sector and the overuse of chemical restraint. It also recommended that the RANZCP develop specialised training content and promote pathways to subspecialty training in cognitive disability health.

A subcommittee was established and applications for Recognition of a New Area of Practice and Certificate of Advanced Training were submitted in August. The Section held a number of symposia at Congress and is planning participation in conferences, including joint conferences in 2025.

The Section is keen to engage the membership – for example via participation in working groups to progress the development of advanced training and the creation of educational resources – and have sought expressions of interest in a communications portfolio, as well as engaging with and supporting trainees.

Committee members

- Dr David Bathgate
- Dr Yoon Choi
- Dr Gail Fleming
- Dr Catherine Franklin
- Dr Jennifer Harrison
- Dr Melanie Johnston
- A/Prof. Rebecca Koncz
- Dr Matthew Sellen
- Dr James Smith
- Dr Sergio Starkstein
- Dr Jennifer Torr
- Prof. Julian Trollor

Section of Rural Psychiatry



Chair

**Associate Professor
Mathew Coleman**

The Section comprises a committed group of Fellows and trainees from across regional, rural, and remote Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Our focus was in supporting the continued momentum and roll-out of the RANZCP Rural Roadmap to enhance and improve sustainable Rural Psychiatry Training Pathways (RPTP) in both countries, in addition to the priority areas of private practice, gender equity and older persons psychiatry.

The successes of RPTP have been experienced firsthand by Section members and rural and remote colleagues. The expansion of training through projects focused on remote supervision, developing alternative pathways for mandatory Stage 2 training, and providing rural readiness workshops for new trainees are a few important projects that committee members have been involved in. The Section would like to thank all the members of the RPTP team under the leadership of Megan Barrett. We look forward to and welcome all members in joining us in launching the RPTP logo at the 2025 Congress.

Committee members

- Dr Andrew Amos
- Dr Ryan Barber
- A/Prof. Ravi Bhat
- Dr Kalliste Black
- Dr Rodney Blanch
- Dr Anna Boggis
- A/Prof. Mathew Coleman
- Dr Therese Grotowski
- Dr Harry Hill
- Dr Skye Kinder
- Dr Julia Lane
- Dr Melissa Renzenbrink
- Dr Kelly Ridley
- Dr Briony Willcocks
- Dr Daniel Wood

Section of Social, Cultural and Rehabilitation Psychiatry



Chair

Dr Nicholas Burns

The Section held its biennial conference in the Blue Mountains with a focus on homelessness, the mental health impacts of loneliness, and new models for conceptualising depression. With over 100 delegates, the conference was our largest yet.

Work has begun on adaptation of the NICE guidelines for psychiatric rehabilitation in adults with complex psychosis. The adaptation is a collaboration with NICE and a pilot for the College's new model for developing best practice guidelines. The Section continues to provide policy advice to the College and is developing a position statement on the social determinants of mental health.

The Section hosted two symposia at Congress showcasing innovative service development in rehabilitation psychiatry across both countries, and a debate about NDIS reform. And finally, the pilot group for the advanced skills in psychiatric rehabilitation online training program is completing their final tranche of study and, with their feedback, the program can be officially launched in 2025.

Committee members

- Dr Tanveer Ahmed
- Dr Sebastian Alvarez Grandi
- Dr Andrea Baas
- Dr Lauren Barnett
- Dr Ann Brennan
- Dr Nicholas Burns
- Dr Catherine Chesterman
- Dr Emma Glanville
- Prof. Carol Harvey
- Ms Manjit Kaur
- Dr Trevor Ma
- Dr Elizabeth Moore
- Dr Rohini Thimmaiah
- Mr Hamza Vayani
- Dr Bharat Visa

Section of Youth Mental Health



Chair

Dr Daniel Pellen

The Section created a WhatsApp group for Youth Psychiatry which now has over 120 members! The Committee now meets five times a year, including once face-to-face. We continue to publish two newsletters a year, in May and November.

The new Certificate of Advanced Training (CAT) in Youth Psychiatry was finally approved to proceed by the Board. We meet fortnightly to progress the application and hope that the first intake will be in August 2025. The Professional Certificate in Youth Psychiatry (provided by Orygen) has completed four intakes. It will become the first year of the Formal Education Course (FEC) for the new CAT.

The Section presented a symposium at Congress, recorded a podcast episode, and hosted its own highly successful and well-attended conference, on the Gold Coast, in July.

Committee members

- Dr Alastair Cameron
- Dr Angelene Chester
- Ms Casey Davis
- Dr Sharon Foley
- Dr Gary Galambos
- Dr David Hartman
- Dr Lisa Juckes
- Dr Ana Lusicic
- Dr Iain Macmillan
- Dr Karen Miller
- Dr Tamoor Mirza
- Dr Donovan Moncur
- Dr Jarrad Paul
- Dr Daniel Pellen
- Dr Leonardo Sauaia
- Dr Matthew Sellen

Network highlights

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Mental Health Network



Chair

Professor Suresh
Sundram

There was transition in the committee membership during the year, with Dr Kym Jenkins finishing her time as Chair and transitioning to the Victorian Jurisdictional Representative position on the committee. The Network thanks and acknowledges her for the leadership, commitment, and endeavour with which she chaired the Network since its inception six years ago. Several new members have also recently joined, resulting in an expanded membership that better represents jurisdictions.

The Network recorded a joint podcast with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre about the plight and issues that asylum seekers face in Australia, including refugee determination process challenges and associated mental health difficulties. The Network worked with the College to publish a revised position statement on [The provision of mental health services for asylum seekers and refugees](#). We advocated to the Department of Home Affairs around refugees still in Papua New Guinea, and advocacy for asylum seekers and refugees will remain a central aspect to our ongoing work.

Committee members

- Dr Tahir Babur
- Dr Paul Brown
- Dr Luisa Butler
- Dr Michael Dudley, AM
- Dr Kym Jenkins
- Dr Vani Kaler
- Dr Susan Lutton
- Prof. Harry McConnell
- Dr Trushna Murgahayah
- Prof. Louise Newman
- Dr Beth O'Connor
- Dr Bipin Ravindran
- Dr Konya Roy
- Dr Tejpal Singh
- Prof. Suresh Sundram
- Dr Choong-Siew Yong

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Network



Chair

Dr Karuppiah
Jagadheesan

The ADHD Grand Rounds have continued with great success and attendance. The ADHD Network is committed to continuing this vital education tool for College members.

The Network continues to consider the best practice model of referral between GPs, psychologists and psychiatrists, and work with their peak governing bodies to ensure effective and equitable care for all consumers is ongoing.

We have made the psychiatrist-led assessment and diagnosis of ADHD the cornerstone of our advocacy and will continue with this focus area in 2025.

There are a number of key stakeholders in this area of practice with whom we engage regularly. We're committed to maintaining and expanding our relationships with these groups in 2025.

Following the success of the joint conference with the Faculty of Adult Psychiatry and Section of Private Practice Psychiatry in August, the Network is again joining with these groups and also with the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for two joint conferences in 2025.

Committee members

- Dr David Chapman
- Dr Angelene Chester
- Dr Rosemary Edwards
- A/Prof. Tatjana Ewais
- Dr Caroline Flynn
- Dr Claire Gaskin
- Dr Peter Heffernan
- Dr Victoria Jackson
- Dr Karuppiah Jagadheesan
- Dr Gordana Jovanova
- Dr Ashar Khan
- Dr Edward Ko Ko Aung
- Dr Elizabeth Lun
- Dr Teslin Mathew
- Dr Roger Paterson
- Prof. Sarah Romans
- Dr Matthew Sellen

Family Violence Psychiatry Network



Chair

Professor Manjula
O'Connor

The Network continues to raise awareness of family violence to trainees and psychiatrists, and regularly makes input into College policy.

A Family Violence and Risk Assessment workshop followed the 2024 Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry Conference, with 50 participants. Professor Robin Scott delivered a keynote on family violence and adverse childhood events.

The Network delivered clinical updates at Congress titled 'A duty to care'. This was hosted in partnership with The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the University of Melbourne, a lived experience expert, and a final year medical student.

The membership survey on knowledge and attitudes on family violence began early in the year as a scholarly project.

The Network Chair appeared at the Victorian Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of perpetrators of family violence, and barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort.

Committee members

- Dr Tahir Babur
- Dr Vibha Bhullar
- Dr Soumitra Das
- Dr Hannah Galloway
- Dr Karen Gaunson
- Dr Olivia Harley
- Dr Samir Ibrahim
- Dr Aparna Laddipeerla
- Dr Jai Nathani
- Prof. Manjula O'Connor
- Dr Jacqueline Short
- Dr Meredith Whiting
- Dr Karen Williams

Military, Veterans' and Emergency Services Personnel Network



Chair

Associate Professor
Jonathan Lane

The Network continues to work with key stakeholders and constitutional bodies to advocate for our military, veterans and emergency services population.

Prof. Ed Heffernan published a key report for the Defence and Veterans' Suicide Royal Commission. Members created three *Psych Matters* podcasts on this population, contributed to the Military Veteran Training Program, and developed GP training podcasts via [Medcast's e-learning platform](#).

Members presented symposia at Congress, but we also had a strong showing at the International Conference of Military Medicine held in Brisbane in September with workshops, symposia, and presentations. Significantly, our Chair, A/Prof. Lane, was appointed as the inaugural Chief Psychiatrist for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), in recognition of the need for leadership and authority from our discipline. Finally, Dr Duncan Wallace, a veteran and pioneer in this field, is retiring after more than 40 years of service. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to him for his work and will miss him greatly. Bravo Zulu, sir!

Committee members

- Prof. Marie Bismark
- Dr Carmel Cash
- Dr Megan Gilbert
- Prof. Edward Heffernan
- Dr Simranjit Kaur
- Dr Andrew Khoo
- Dr Jonathan Lane
- A/Prof. Alexander Lim
- Dr Richard Magtengaard
- Dr Diana McKay
- Dr Carolyn Nas Jones
- Prof. Nagesh Pai
- Dr Andrew Ramage
- Dr Duncan Roy
- Dr Daniel Short
- Dr Duncan Wallace

New Fellows

During 2024, 287 candidates were admitted to Fellowship of the RANZCP.

Australia

Australian Capital Territory

Dr Andrew Bailey
Dr Sumudu Godawita
Dr Catherine Hayter
Dr Ae Rim Kim
Dr Christopher Lindall
Dr Nafiseh Moghaddasi Bonab
Dr Julie Simes-Phillipps

New South Wales

Dr Samia Arefin
Dr Ishita Ashraf
Dr Matthew Barton
Dr Saul Bert
Dr Chloe Boateng
Dr Matilda Brown
Dr Allan Campbell
Dr Shirish Chakra Chidurala
Dr Alex Chung
Dr Laura Conway
Dr Andrew Custodio
Dr Jamie Denholm
Dr Aaron Fernandez
Dr Joshua Flavell
Dr Allison Forbes
Dr Alexander Freeman
Dr Elizabeth Fyson

Dr Judith Grogan
Dr Kate Hartemink
Dr Fergus Hill
Dr Kevin Hoang
Dr Claudia Hurwitz
Dr Sadhana Jacob
Dr Sami Khan
Dr Yu Hin Lam
Dr Chi Wah Jimmy Leung
Dr Toby Machart
Dr Cameron MacIntosh
Dr Krishna Mahadevan
Dr Michael Marginson
Dr Preeti Mathew
Dr Amy McTaggart
Dr Yousef Morsali
Dr Rebecca Moss
Dr Bronwyn Moss
Dr Tuck Lam Ngun
Dr Bryn Nicholas
Dr Marcia Nunes Sequeira
Dr Bhairavi Parimalanathan
Dr Anupam Punj
Dr Tony Ratajkoski
Dr Abirami Ratnagopal
Dr Kevin Rourke
Dr Charlotte Rydstrand
Dr Alena Sannikova
Dr Shahper Shammi
Dr Divyasree Sreedhar

Dr Vivek Srinivasan
Dr Daniel Tosson
Dr Van Truong
Dr Ramya Velalagan
Dr Luke Viglione
Dr Nicholas Vitko
Dr Diana Wang
Dr Shane Woods
Dr Jacob Yuide
Dr Yu Zheng

Northern Territory

Dr Victoria Wilson

Queensland

Dr Emmanuel Alfa
Dr Iman Awan
Dr Udaya Raj Balakrishna
Dr Asma Batool
Dr Ryan Bell
Dr Wesley Bierman
Dr Lucy Bransom
Dr Jane Buchanan
Dr Andrea Burmeister
Dr Patrice Callaghan
Dr Nicola Campbell
Dr Annabelle Chalk
Dr Seshadri Chatterjee
Dr Ashok Chithu Sadanandam
Dr Dulangi Dahanayake



Dr Oyetayo Dairo
Dr Samuel Dal Pra
Dr James Dickens
Dr Bianca Dinu
Dr Ghassan El Tatory
Dr Renan Ennes Avila
Dr Nicholas Faint
Dr Syeda Shahzeen Fatima
Dr Kristy Fragueiro Rebello
Dr Christopher Gandar
Dr Rory Grinsill
Dr Kartini Haji Tudin
Dr Shivananda Hatti
Dr James Heaney
Dr Rebecca Horne
Dr Mohamed Ibrahim
Dr Karthika Johnson
Dr Melanie Johnston
Dr Premchand Karuppannan Chandrasekaran
Dr Fayyaz Khan
Dr Sweta Lal
Dr Anthea Lam
Dr Timothy Leow
Dr Tana Lucksanapiruk
Dr David Maletsky
Dr Sanop Mammen
Dr Fabio Margiotta
Dr Paula Matich
Dr Sean Mayne
Dr Katie McCullough
Dr Homa Mohammadsadeghi
Dr Colin Moncrieff
Dr Amit Nagarkar

Dr Sarah Nguyen
Dr Korinne Northwood
Prof. Bolanle Ola
Dr Stacy Orr
Dr Alicia Palmer
Dr Daniel Pasternak
Dr Andrew Paul
Dr John Perera
Dr Luke Pervan
Dr Joshua Price
Dr Reni Rajan
Dr Vinay Ramineni
Dr Bronwyn Shanahan
Dr Divya Sharma
Dr Solomon Shatananda
Dr Matthew Slinger
Dr James Smith
Dr Maya Tanham
Dr Ganga Purna Chandra Kalyani Terli
Dr Sarah Thomas
Dr Anna Vecchio
Dr Udaya Vikram
Dr Benjamin Wakefield
Dr Bartosz Wlodek

South Australia

Dr Reema Achal
Dr Michelle Bagster
Dr James Bilogrevic
Dr Stuart Brown
Dr Vicki Christodoulou
Dr Judith Keith
Dr Aleem Khan

Dr Rachel Law
Dr Timothy McKenzie
Dr Trushna Murgahayah
Dr Deval Patel
Dr Agnik Sarkar
Dr Rosemary Williams

Tasmania

Dr Samuel Baxter
Dr Amro El Sholkami
Dr Rebecca Grant
Dr Alexander Jasper
Dr Vishal Kumar Maheshwar
Dr Hammad Mahmoud

Victoria

Dr Rosemary Allen
Dr Simon Amar
Dr Lachlan Angus
Dr Bertha Arévalo Bazalar
Dr Nariman Awais
Dr Thomas Baker
Dr Sarah Baker
Dr David Batten
Dr Richard Bradlow
Dr Emily Brown
Dr Fong Chun Chan
Dr Carrie Cheng
Dr Harish Chikanna
Dr Ethan Chua
Dr Zoe Cousins
Dr Anna Cunningham
Dr Christopher Cunningham



Dr Thomas Davis
Dr Lekam Ralalage
Madhubhashinee Dayabandara
Dr Antonio D'Costa
Dr Craig D'Cunha
Dr Wayne Deery
Dr Juen Mei Ding
Dr Hannah Dobson
Dr Beatrice Dowsett
Dr Jessica Dumble
Dr Anuradha Ellepola
Dr Mandana Fazeli Kisomi
Dr Mary-Jo Flavel
Dr Jessica Forrest
Dr Louise Garcia-Rodriguez
Dr Francesco Giorlando
Dr Chenduran Gnanaswaran
Dr Alla Grynevych
Prof. Peter Haddad
Dr Jared Hannam
Dr Evrard Harris
Dr Jennifer Hauptman
Dr Medhani Hewagama
Dr Jessica Hickmott
Dr Andrew Hodder
Dr Hsiang-Han Hsieh
Dr Qavi Isa
Dr Stuti Jindal
Dr Noriko Kawasaki
Dr Taimur Khan
Dr Sadaf Khan
Dr Nuha Khan
Dr Jessica Lee
Dr Madeleine Leung

Dr Michelle Li
Dr Robert Lundin
Dr Collin McDonnell
Dr Felix McMillan
Dr Ronald Melgaard
Dr Ravi Kumar Nadella
Dr Sanjay Naik
Dr Ambreen Naz
Dr Joanna Nguyen
Dr Kathy Nguyen
Dr Jeanne O'Bryan
Dr Rachel O'Connor
Dr Emma O'Leary
Dr Fui Chen Ong
Dr Sachin Pillai
Dr Benjamin Pojer
Dr Thomas Reilly
Dr Yasodha Rohanachandra
Dr Tahmineh Salehi
Dr Poornima Rao Sathyanarayana Rao
Dr Antoine Sawares
Dr Ramkumar Segar
Dr Fereshteh Shakeri Alamshiri
Dr Vandita Shanbhag
Dr Hye-Sang Shin
Dr Eli Stalidzans
Dr Yu Cho Su
Dr Katelyn Tenbense
Dr Abel Thamby
Dr Joyce Ting
Dr Prudence Vivarini
Dr Alexandra Waxmann
Dr Fernanda Weyne Magnus

Dr Tin Yee Connie Yan
Dr Amanda Young

Western Australia

Dr Michael Allanson
Dr Ramesh Atikum
Dr Udena Attygalle
Dr Sudarsan Balakrishnan
Dr Olivia Della Martina
Dr Danielle D'Rozario
Dr Azadeh Farnoodi
Dr Akira Fukutomi
Dr Alexander Hegarty
Dr Binu Jayawardena
Dr Andres Martinez Gonzalez
Dr Caitriona Ni Mhurchu
Dr Conleth O'Connor
Dr Jana Oosthuizen
Dr Stephen Pannell
Dr Suhail Rafiq
Dr Leon Rajanthiran
Dr Madhavan Seshadri
Dr Timothy Styles
Dr Izuchukwu Ugwu
Dr Venkatesh Raju Vempalli
Dr Elisabeth Walters
Dr Margaret Wardrop
Dr Hisham Ziauddeen



Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Marella Bedggood
Dr Rātahi Bell
Dr Michael Daly
Dr Seán Evans
Dr Mary Foister
Dr Maria Henning
Dr Gueorgui Hristov
Dr Yunmi Kim
Dr James Marshall
Dr Clare McLean
Dr Robert McPherson
Dr Henry Naylor
Dr Radhika Palepu
Dr Halpewaththage Peiris
Dr Stewart Quigg
Dr Brigit Ross
Dr Olivia Storm
Dr Te Kāhui Tapsell
Dr Thivya Turner
Dr Briar Warin
Dr Rebecca White
Dr William Young



Certificates of Advanced Training

During 2024, 146 Fellows were awarded
RANZCP Certificates of Advanced Training.

Addiction Psychiatry

Dr Samuel Baxter
Dr Richard Bradlow
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Dr Thomas Davis
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Dr Kalapuge Goonawardena
Dr Rebecca Grant
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Dr Alexander Hegarty
Dr Monica Johnson
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Dr Jessica Xu
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Dr Matthew Higgins
Dr Jade Hughes
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Dr Melanie Johnston
Dr Matthew Kang
Dr Anthea Lam
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Dr Michelle Li
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Dr Rebecca Moss
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Forensic Psychiatry

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Dr Hannah Cross
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Dr Kiernan Dorney
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Dr Julia Pettitt
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Dr Michael Tunbridge
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Dr Himaja Aravind
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Dr Annabelle Chalk
Dr Jessica Dumble
Dr Syeda Shahzeen Fatima
Dr Kimberley Hicks
Dr David Huppert
Dr Stuti Jindal
Dr Nurul Johari
Dr Deval Patel
Dr Hye-Sang Shin
Dr Thurairetnam Sivaruban
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Dr Timothy Styles
Dr Ganga Purna Chandra Kalyani Terli
Dr Michael Thorpe
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Dr Jacob Alexander
Dr David Graham
Dr Prakash Kamath
Dr Felicia Ng
Dr Benjamin Pojer
Dr Jennifer Pulley
Dr Amirsalar Rashidianfar
Dr Sara Temelkovski
Dr Zhijing Xing

Vale

The RANZCP pays tribute to the members who passed away during 2024:

Dr William Bor	Dr Jeanette Martin
Dr Fabian Bryant	Mr Paora (Paul) Matthews
A/Prof. Peter Burnett	Prof. Russell Meares
Dr Michael Downey	Dr Sheila Metcalf
Dr Richard England	Dr Revindran Nair
Dr Michael Giuffrida	Dr Peter Norrie
Dr Natalie Glinka	Dr John Parkinson
Prof. Assen Jablensky	Dr Margaret Pickles-Keran
Dr John Johnston	Dr Sukumar Rajendran
Dr Rodney Juratowitch	Dr Gregory Sam
Dr Rodney Kleiman	Dr Oscar Stanley
Dr Robert Large	Dr George Szego
Dr Thomas Luong	Dr Robert Yewers

The RANZCP was informed in 2024 that the following members had passed away in a previous year:

Prof. Bernard Carroll	Dr Alan Russell
Dr Nicholas Destro	Dr Kieran Singer
Dr Bertie Glass	Dr Thomas Stephens
Dr John Isles	A/Prof. Marina Vamos
Dr Daniel Kahans	Dr Chandra Wijesinghe
Dr Veronica Lewinski	Dr Anthony Williams
Dr Peter Papay	Prof. Neil Yorkston
Dr Andrew Robertson	

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RANZCP Board

Dr Elizabeth Moore
President

Dr Astha Tomar
President-Elect

Dr Michelle Atchison
Elected Director

Dr Ava Carter
Appointed Director, Trainee

Dr Mark Lawrence
Elected Director

Prof. Richard Newton
Director (Casual Vacancy)

A/Prof. Melanie Turner
Elected Director (to Dec. 2024)

Dr Angelo Virgona
Elected Director

Chief Executive Officer

Sharon McGowan AM (to December 2024)

Professor Andrew Way AM (interim CEO from December 2024)
