

31 January 2025

Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

By email to: Mark.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Butler

Subject: Government's Response to the Senate Inquiry on ADHD

The RANZCP welcomes the government's response to the [final report of the ADHD Inquiry](#) (the Report) and is eager to work alongside the government to improve the mental health support Australians with ADHD.

The RANZCP welcomes the government's support of the recommendation to expedite the development of uniform prescribing rules, and in principle support for nine other recommendations. RANZCP would highlight that in order to deliver the necessary reforms to close the growing gaps in ADHD services, a more specific and unified approach is required.

In its [submission](#) to the inquiry, the RANZCP outlined several key opportunities for collaboration between the RANZCP and the government to increase access to effective ADHD care:

- **Barriers to Diagnosis:** High costs and inadequate workforce capacity prevent timely access to comprehensive assessments and diagnosis.
- **Gaps in Knowledge and Service Provision:** There is a significant need for increased awareness of ADHD and for services to be better tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals with ADHD through their lifespan.
- **Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Training:** Expanding ongoing training for clinicians and fostering greater collaboration between health disciplines to improve access to care.
- **Under-recognition of ADHD in Females:** The continued underdiagnosis and under recognition of ADHD in females, which remains a significant issue in both assessment and treatment.

Recent investment into ADHD services has been directed toward broader mental health initiatives and crisis care, rather than addressing the specific needs of those with ADHD. The RANZCP reiterates the Report's recommendation to co-design, develop and implement a national framework for ADHD, with funding allocated for its implementation and ongoing evaluation.

The RANZCP endorses the [AADPA Australian Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for ADHD](#) and recommendations. Greater investment and funding are required to improve access and quality of mental health services for people with ADHD. As highlighted in the guideline, '*A multimodal, multi-professional and multi-agency approach is recognised as optimal care*'. The RANZCP reiterates the need for comprehensive, ADHD-specific services in the public health system to support and facilitate timely and effective treatment for those affected by ADHD.

The RANZCP recommends the formation of an advisory group which includes members from relevant medical colleges, members with lived experience and other key stakeholders (e.g. AADPA).

As the peak body representing psychiatrists, the RANZCP urges the government to take more decisive action. It is vital that the government moves beyond a general response to mental health care and addresses ADHD-specific service access issues in a meaningful and targeted manner.

The RANZCP welcomes ongoing collaboration between the RANZCP, the federal, and state governments to improve service design and delivery for people with ADHD. To further discuss how we can support Australians with ADHD, please contact me at president@ranzcp.org

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Moore
RANZCP President

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