

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Military, Veterans' and Emergency Services Personnel Mental Health Network



This document is to be read in conjunction with the [Committee Meeting Operations Regulations](#).

1. Background

The Military and Veterans' Mental Health Network (**Network**) was established by the RANZCP Board on 11 December 2017. In February 2020, the Network expanded to incorporate emergency services personnel.

2. Purpose and Responsibilities

The Network will assist the Board to promote interest and expertise amongst psychiatrists and trainees in the mental health of military veterans, serving armed forces members, and paid and voluntary serving and ex-serving emergency services personnel. Emergency services personnel includes professionals such as paramedics, police officers, fire fighters and other emergency personnel trained to provide assistance in time-critical, often life-threatening situations.

The responsibilities of the Network are to:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and knowledge bi-nationally in relation to the mental health of military personnel, veterans and emergency services personnel.
- Promote and encourage the highest clinical and ethical standards in the delivery of mental health services to military personnel, veterans and emergency services personnel.
- Act as an expert reference group to provide feedback to the College on clinical matters pertinent to these groups.
- Promote and facilitate research relevant to the mental health of military personnel, veterans and emergency services personnel.
- Promote further education and training of psychiatrists and trainees in relation to the mental health of military personnel, veterans and emergency services personnel.
- Assist the College in the preparation of relevant position statements and other memoranda.
- Identify and promote the role of psychiatrists in the multidisciplinary approach to military and veterans' mental health and the mental health of emergency services personnel, and participate in appropriate cross-sector initiatives.
- Recommend models of care that will improve the quality of mental health services delivered to military personnel, veterans and emergency services personnel.
- Identify, report and manage risks in accordance with College Policy.

The Network would not form independent positions or statements, but could assist with the development of joint, or mutually supportive, statements through the Board.

3. Reporting Relationships and Reports

The Network reports to the RANZCP Board, and shall provide a report to each meeting of the RANZCP Board via the CEO's Report.

The Network will work closely with RANZCP senior management, in particular, the Executive Manager, Membership and Events and/or Senior Manager Membership Services and Bi-national Offices to ensure its responsibilities are met.

4. Membership of the Network

Membership of the Network is open to all interested College members, and other interested professionals working in the areas of military and veterans' mental health and/or the mental health of emergency services personnel.

Non-College members are eligible to join the Network following approval from the Board and on the recommendation of the Network Committee.

5. Network Committee Composition and Governance

The activities of the Network will be led by a committee, established on a bi-national basis.

Membership of the Committee may comprise a maximum of 12 members (Fellows/Affiliates), including a Chair. The Chair must be a Fellow of the College.

All appointments to the Committee will be made by the Board and members will be appointed based on the skills, knowledge and expertise required to fulfil the Network's responsibilities.

The Committee shall include at least one member from Australia and one member from New Zealand and endeavour to achieve an appropriate gender balance.

Oversight of the Network will be provided by the Board. The Network may provide information and recommendations to the Board, but does not operate independently of the Board.

The Board, in consultation with the Network Chair, may designate specific duties or positions to members of this Committee. For example a Deputy Chair may be designated.

In addition to the above members of the Network, relevant staff, will be in attendance at all meetings.

6. Support

The Network will be supported by College staff. The Executive/Senior Manager (or their nominee) responsible for the Network will be in attendance at Network Committee meetings. Other staff members may attend and this will be arranged by the relevant Executive/Senior Manager.

7. Review

The Board will review the Network, including the Committee membership and/or composition every two years, or earlier if required.

8. Associated Documents

- Committee Meeting Operations Regulations.
- RANZCP Constitution, RANZCP Media and Communications Policy, RANZCP Code of Conduct, RANZCP Code of Ethics, RANZCP Conflict of Interest Guideline, Network Conflict of Interest Register, RANZCP Risk Management Policy, relevant Risk Register, Deed of Undertaking in relation to Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest, RANZCP Privacy Policy, RANZCP Delegation of Authority Guideline, RANZCP Travel and Expense Policy and Expense Claim Form, RANZCP Document Approval Pathway Procedure and College website.

Revision Record

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