

Authorising Committee / Department:	Board
Responsible Committee / Department:	Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee
Document Code:	REG PPP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee

Background

In February 2009, General Council established a new Board, the Board of Practice and Partnerships and six constituent committees to replace the Boards of Practice Standards, Professional and Community Relations, Research and their 13 constituent committees.

On 23 May 2013, General Council was replaced by the Board. This change was as a result of the implementation of a new governance model that was passed by the Fellowship in August 2012. Also at this time, the Board of Practice and Partnerships was renamed the Practice and Partnerships Committee (PPC). In May 2015 the Board approved that the Practice and Partnerships Committee be renamed the Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee (PPPC).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee is a constituent committee of the PPPC.

1. ROLE

Responsible directly to the PPPC, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee (the Committee) will be an active working arm of the PPPC which executes priorities in the College's Strategic Plan and the Committee's work plan particularly as they relate to the practice and the profession of psychiatry in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee will be responsible for developing an annual work plan which will be reviewed at the end of each calendar year. The plan, which should align with the College's Strategic Plan, will be approved by the PPPC and noted by the Board.

The Committee will be responsible for:

- a) overseeing the implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in collaboration with the RAP Steering Group
- b) assisting with the development of policy and provide advice in the area of the College relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups.
- c) assisting with and coordinating communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups
- d) determining principles and priorities in promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health within College activities including training, research and professional development
- e) promoting the views and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the College Board and Committees
- f) acting with other College representatives to present the views and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to all non-College participants in mental health policy functions, service development and provisions

- g) developing relationships with key non-governmental organisation (NGO) stakeholders, in consultation with the Office of the President and CEO (OPCEO) External Relations function as required
- h) advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and assist the College, within resources available, in advocating with and on behalf of these groups to promote mental health to the community; to reduce the impact of mental illness; to ensure optimal and complementary recognition and application of the various expertise of people and organisations involved in mental health care, and to ensure the rights of people with mental disorders
- i) supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychiatric trainees as well as non- Indigenous psychiatry trainees who have an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health
- j) identifying and overseeing risks associated with the Committee, in accordance with the College's Risk Management Policy, and for reporting risks to the PPPC and high level risks to the Board.

3. REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- a) The Committee shall report on its activities to each face to face meeting of the PPPC.
- b) The Committee shall be represented on the PPPC by the Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee.
- c) The Committee shall maintain a meaningful relationship with Te Kaunihera that reflects a unique and shared experience so the Committees may provide an advisory role to inform the College's policy development, general advocacy initiatives and to improve pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori doctors into psychiatry. The relationship acts to enhance the commitment by the College to actively acknowledge the first peoples of Australia and New Zealand with culturally appropriate and informed processes.
- d) The Reconciliation Action Plan Steering Group (RAP) reports directly to Board and in addition reports regularly to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and the PPPC.
- e) The Committee shall liaise with other College groups including the Board, Committees, Faculties and Sections as required.

4. COMPOSITION / MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee will comprise:

- a) Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee (Fellow)
- b) Three Fellows (Independent) with at least one Fellow who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- c) at least four but no more than eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Members
- d) up to two Trainee Representatives (Associate), with preferably one who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- e) a representative of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
- f) Chair, PPPC - Ex-officio (Fellow)
- g) Deputy Chair, Partnerships and Community portfolio, PPPC - Ex-officio (Fellow)
- h) immediate past Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee (Co-opted Member).
- The Committee may co-opt representatives for their expertise and knowledge; for example from the College's Sections or Faculties.

- In addition, the Committee will maintain close communication and collaboration with other College committees on matters relevant to those committees, including Faculties, Sections, Branch Committees and the New Zealand National Committee.
- The appointment process should endeavor to achieve appropriate gender balance.
- The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, may appoint one of the Committee members, who is also a Fellow of the College, as the Deputy Chair if and when required.

5. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

5.1. Chair

- a) The Chair of the Committee shall be elected or appointed by the Board, upon the recommendation of the PPPC. Nominations will be called from the Fellowship.
- b) The term of office shall be two years from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the election year in which he/she was elected or such later date when a successor is appointed.
- c) The Chair shall be entitled to stand for re-election to this position to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms i.e. six years.
- d) The Chair elected shall be a member of any and all constituent committees or working groups under the Committee.

5.2. Fellows (Independent)

- a) The Fellows (Independent) will be elected by the PPPC and noted by the Board. Nominations will be called from the Fellowship.
- b) The term of office shall be two years from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the election year in which he/she was elected or such later date when a successor is appointed.
- c) They shall be entitled to stand for re-election to this position to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms i.e. six years.

5.3. Ex-officio Members

- a) Ex-officio Members are members of the Committee by virtue of the position that they hold.
- b) The term of office of Ex-officio Members shall coincide with their term on their respective Committee. In no case shall any member serve a term longer than two years with a maximum of three consecutive terms i.e. six years.

5.4. Community Members

- a) Community Members shall be appointed by the PPPC upon the recommendation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and noted by the Board.
- b) The term of office of community representatives shall be two years from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the election year in which he/she was elected or appointed or such later date when a successor is appointed.
- c) Community Members will be appointed following the procedure 'Appointment of Community Members to College Committees'.
- d) Community Members shall be entitled to be re-elected to this position to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.
- e) In the event that a community member resigns, a casual vacancy shall arise for this position, and any appointment shall be in accordance with Procedure for Appointment of Community members to College Committees.

5.5. Trainee representative

- a) The trainee representative is appointed in accordance with the Procedure for appointing trainee representatives to College committees.
- b) The term of the trainee representative will commence in May each year at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting and will be for 12 months.
- c) The trainee representative will be eligible for re-appointment to this position to serve a maximum of five (5) consecutive years.
- d) In the event that the trainee is admitted to Fellowship during their term on a committee, they may complete their annual term, but they are not eligible for appointment thereafter.
- e) In the event that the trainee resigns from the committee, a casual vacancy will arise and the vacancy will be filled for the remainder of the term as per the Procedure for appointing trainees to College committees.

5.6. Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) Representative

- a) An Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) representative shall be nominated by AIDA in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and appointed by the PPPC.
- b) The term of office of the AIDA representative shall be two years from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the election year in which he/she was elected or appointed or such a later date when a successor is appointed.

5.7. Co-opted Members

- a) The Committee may co-opt additional members (e.g. College Members, community Members, Indigenous persons, external stakeholders etc.) from time to time with particular specified knowledge and/or expertise.
- b) The immediate past Chair shall be appointed to the Committee by the PPPC as a Co-opted Member for a one year term to assist in the transfer of knowledge and succession planning.
- c) The number of Co-opted Members will be a maximum of three.
- d) Co-opted Members of the Committee shall not have voting rights.
- e) The need for co-opted Members shall usually be reviewed by the Committee each year at the time of elections to the Committee, but may be reviewed more frequently as considered necessary.
- f) The term of office for Co-opted Members shall be no more than two consecutive years.
- g) Co-opted Members are expected to maintain confidentiality of the meetings proceedings.

5.8. Observers

- a) The Committee may invite persons from time to time to attend some or parts of a Committee meeting as an observer.
- b) Observers would be expected to maintain confidentiality of the meetings proceedings.
- c) The number of observers will be at the discretion of the Committee.
- d) Observers shall not have voting rights.
- e) The need for observers shall be reviewed by the Committee each year at the time of elections to the Committee, but may be reviewed more frequently as considered necessary.
- f) Observers may be appointed to the Committee for no more than two consecutive years.

5.9. Casual Vacancies

- a) In the event of the resignation of any member of the Committee, the PPPC shall appoint a casual vacancy (noted by the Board where appropriate) to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- b) A person appointed as a casual vacancy shall be eligible for election or appointment in accordance with this Regulation. For the purposes of this Regulation, the period of time served as a casual vacancy shall not be counted as a period of membership.
- c) In the event that the resignation is a representative position e.g. a Training Representative, the appointment will be made in consultation with that Committee.

6. POWERS

The Committee shall observe any regulations or directions that may, from time to time, be imposed upon it by the Board.

Pursuant to Article 8.2 of the Constitution:

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

7. LIMITATION ON POWERS

Pursuant to Articles 14.1, 14.3, 14.4 and 14.5 of the Constitution:

- a) 'The Board may establish committees comprising such persons as the Board determines or otherwise determined in accordance with the Regulations'.
- b) 'The Board shall determine the powers and duties of each committee (its Regulations or Terms of Reference) and each committee shall in the exercise of its powers comply with the Regulations and the Committee Terms of Reference'.

8. COMMITTEE SUPPORT

The Committee shall be supported by the staff of the College, specifically staff of the Practice, Policy and Partnerships (PPP) Department.

9. REVIEW

- a) Pursuant to Article 14.8 of the Constitution, "The Board shall review the need for each Committee and the members thereof at least every two years".
- b) These Regulations shall be reviewed every two (2) years from commencement.

10. OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

10.1. Meetings

- a) The Committee may meet for the transaction of business and adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, taking into account budget implications.
- b) Meetings of the Committee may be in person, by telephone or other telecommunications or electronic means at the discretion of the Chair.
- c) The Committee shall only meet face to face up to twice a year.

- d) The Chair may convene a meeting of the Committee by written notice to members of the Committee. An agenda shall be circulated in advance of the meeting.

10.2. Notice of Meetings

- a) At least 24 hours' notice of a meeting of the Committee must be given to each Committee member specifying the place, time and date of the meeting and the general nature of items to be discussed.
- b) Notice may be given in writing, by email, by telephone or other electronic and appropriate means.

10.3. Attendance at Meetings

- a) If a Chair is unable to attend three consecutive Committee meetings, the Chair should raise this with the Chair of the relevant parent committee and/or the appropriate Board constituent Committee Chair.
- b) It is expected that a Committee member will attend all meetings of the Committee. However, it is acknowledged by the College that an individual's work and family commitments/responsibilities may prevent a member from attending a meeting.
- c) If a Committee member is unable to attend a meeting, the Chair and/or relevant staff member should, where possible, be advised as soon as possible in advance of the meeting (for quorum purposes).
- d) Non-attendance at three consecutive meetings will be reviewed by the Chair in consultation with the individual member concerned. If it is agreed that the Committee member needs to step down from the committee, a casual vacancy shall arise.

10.4. Chair

- a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Committee.
- b) If the Chair knows prior to a meeting they will not be able to attend, they can delegate a Committee member (Fellow) to Chair that meeting.
- c) If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting the members present shall elect a Committee member present, who is also a Fellow of the College, to be Chair of the meeting.

10.5. Quorum

- a) For items involving a change or establishment of policy/procedure/process or matters of great complexity, as determined by the Chair, the quorum for a meeting shall be 50% whether held face-to-face, via teleconference or out-of-session by email vote. Decisions will be recorded in the minutes and circulated within the College's usual processes.
- b) For items which are deemed to apply an already approved policy/procedure/process to a set of facts or extending an established decision, the Chair in consultation with any other committee members present (face-to-face, teleconference or email), shall make the decision, in consultation with the Executive Manager, or Chief Executive Officer. Decisions will be recorded in the minutes and circulated within the College's usual processes.
- c) The Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Committee.

10.6. Proxies

- a) Committee members are unable to appoint a proxy to attend a meeting on their behalf, unless the position held by the member on the Committee is a representative position e.g. a Trainee representative. The appointed proxy must be member of the committee they are representing.
- b) The onus is on the Committee member to advise the Chair, in advance of the meeting, of their proxy's details.
- c) A proxy has the same voting rights as the person they are replacing.
- d) A proxy may only receive the meeting papers for the meeting they are attending.

10.7. Voting

- a) All Committee members, except co-opted members, observers and those without authority to vote, shall have full voting rights.
- b) Decisions arising at a meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes of members present and voting.
- c) A decision by a majority of the members present and voting is for all purposes a decision of the Committee.
- d) The Chair of the meeting has a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote where there is an equality of votes.

10.8. Written Resolution

A written resolution signed or approved by electronic mail by 50% of all members (other than any member on leave of absence or those without authority to vote) is taken to be a decision of the members passed at a meeting of the Committee duly convened and held.

10.9 Minutes of Meetings

- a) A written record of all proceedings of Committee meetings shall be kept by the College.
- b) Draft minutes of all meetings should be promptly circulated to all Committee members.
- c) The minutes of each committee meeting will be submitted to each face to face meeting of the PPPC Committee.

10.10. Defects in Appointment or Qualification of a Committee Member

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

10.11. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

- a) All people attending a meeting of the Committee must declare any conflicts of interest to the Chair. Conflicts of interest will be managed and declared in accordance with the College's Conflict of Interest Guideline.
- b) The Committee must maintain a Conflict of Interest Register.
- c) Each member of the Committee, including co-opted and observer members, must sign a Deed of Undertaking Relating to Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest.
- d) The Deed is valid for the period of time the member is part of the Committee and after they have finished on the Committee, particularly in relation to confidentiality.
- e) All signed Deeds must be forwarded to the College's Governance Officer.

10.12. Other Committees of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee

The Committee may establish Subcommittees or Working Groups. This must occur in consultation with the relevant General or Senior Department Manager. Approval to establish a Subcommittee or Working Group must be sought from the Finance Committee (for budget purposes), the Corporate Governance and Risk Committee (CGRC) and the Board.

10.13. Financial Responsibility

- a) The Committee must develop an annual budget based on the budget process developed by the College in conjunction with the College's Finance Department.

- b) The Committee is required to operate in accordance with College Policy, processes and within the budgetary constraints as determined by the Board. Any spending above and beyond the allocated budget requires explicit authorisation in accordance with the College's Delegation of Authority Policy.

11. MEDIA AND AUTHORISED STATEMENTS

- a) With respect to making media or other external comment or representation, the College's Media and Communications Policy (available on the RANZCP website) should be consulted and adhered to.
- b) Pursuant to Articles 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 of the Constitution: 'The President or the Board may authorise any Committee or individual to represent the College before any government or governmental body or committee or to make statements or express views on behalf of the College. The authority may be given generally or for a specific situation and may be given on such conditions as the President or Board thinks fit.'
- c) 'Unless duly authorised to do so under this Article, no Member may make any statement or express any view which purports to be a statement or view of the College or as having been made or expressed on behalf of or with the concurrence of the College.'
- d) The President and Board are authorised to nominate RANZCP Members to comment to the media in accordance with their expertise and may authorise Committees, Branches, New Zealand National Committee, Faculties or Section Chairs to comment on certain issues.

12. INTERPRETATION

The Regulation shall be known as the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee'.

- '**Affiliate**' means a Member admitted pursuant to Article 3.5 of the Constitution.
- '**Annual General Meeting**' means the annual general meeting of the College held in accordance with the Constitution and the Act.
- '**Article(s)**' means an article or clause of the Constitution.
- '**Associate**' means a Member admitted pursuant to Article 3.4 of the Constitution.
- '**Board**' means the board of the College established under the Constitution, each member of which shall be a Director of the College.
- '**Casual Vacancy**' means any vacancy on the Committee caused otherwise than by the retirement of a Committee member at the end of his or her term.
- '**Co-opted**' means a person that has been co-opted for their area of expertise or knowledge of a particular area.
- '**College**' means The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists constituted as a company limited by guarantee under the Constitution.
- '**Committee**' means the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee.
- '**Community Member**' means a carer or consumer appointed to the Committee.
- '**Constitution**' means the Constitution of the College as amended from time to time.
- '**Elected**' means the formal election process undertaken to elect a member.
- '**Election Year**' means the year the College Constitution came into effect and every second year thereafter.
- '**Ex-officio**' means a member of the Committee who is part of the Committee by virtue of holding another office.

- **‘Fellow’** means a Member who holds Fellowship of the College pursuant to Article 3.3 of the Constitution.
- **‘Fellow (Independent)’** means a Fellow from the general Fellowship, i.e. a Fellow who is not representing the Board, another College Committee, Faculty, Section, or an external organisation.
- **‘President’** means the person for the time being elected to that office.
- **‘Proxy’** means a person appointed to represent a committee member at a meeting on their behalf. Committee members are unable to appoint a proxy unless the position held by the Committee member is a representative position. The appointed proxy must be a member of the committee they are representing.

13. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS / PUBLICATIONS

- Position Descriptions: Chair, Member and Community Member.
- PPPC Induction Manual.
- PPPC Regulations
- Procedure for the appointment of trainees to College Committees
- Procedure for the appointment of Community Members to College Committees
- RANZCP Constitution, Media and Communications Policy, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest Guideline, Conflict of Interest Register, Risk Management Policy, Risk Register, Document Approval Pathway Procedure and Website.
- Deed of Undertaking in relation to Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest.

APPROVAL / REVISION RECORD

Contact: Senior Department Manager, PPP			
Date	Version	Approver	Description
27/02/2010	1.0	GC2009/1 R12	New document
29/05/2011	1.1	GC2011/2 R27	Not recorded
18/2/2014	1.2	PPP	Amendments to meet new College governance arrangements
02/2016	2.0	B2015/1 R25	Amendments to clarify the responsibilities, composition of the Committee, change of committee name i.e. PPPC and clarification of voting
15/01/2018	2.1	B2018/OOS R2	Amendments to meet new College governance arrangements and to clarify the composition of the Committee
01/2020			NEXT REVIEW