

Position Description

President

Organisation:	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP).
Location:	RANZCP main office is in Melbourne. Directors may reside in any location in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
Position Title:	President
Term:	Two years.
Remuneration:	Annual honorarium. Travel and related expenses covered.
Reports to:	The Board of Directors.

The RANZCP Fellowship elects the RANZCP President-Elect. Upon completion of the term of the incumbent President, the President-Elect shall automatically assume the role of President.

About the Board

The RANZCP Board is the governing body of the RANZCP and comprises of seven RANZCP Fellows who are elected by the RANZCP Fellowship to the positions of President (Chair of the Board), President-Elect, and five Elected Directors. Additionally, up to two Directors may be appointed by the Board.

The Board has statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012, the RANZCP Constitution and its Regulations. The Board is responsible for all matters relating to the strategic direction, policies, and practices, of the RANZCP, as well overseeing RANZCP operations via the CEO.

Purpose of Role

The President ensures the Board fulfils its governance duties in accordance with the RANZCP Constitution, the Corporations Act 2001, and the ACNC Governance Standards. The President leads the Board to deliver effective governance, uphold the College's charitable purpose, and ensure alignment of College strategy, performance, and risk oversight with the organisation's stated purpose and values.

RANZCP Values

Directors are expected to demonstrate behaviours and capabilities that align with the RANZCP values:

- **Respect** – through empowerment, diversity and equity in all we do.
- **Collaboration** – for increased effectiveness, influence and impact.
- **Excellence** – for our communities and our profession.
- **Action** – backed by evidence-informed policy.

Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest of Directors are managed and declared in accordance with the College's *Declaring and Managing Conflict of Interest Guideline*. The existence of a conflict of interest that cannot be appropriately mitigated or managed may result in action under the Board Regulations.

Key responsibilities of the President

- Chair all meetings of the Board and the Annual General Meeting and ensure effective conduct of meetings and decisions.
- Lead the Board to fulfil its fiduciary, strategic, and compliance obligations under the Constitution, Corporations Act 2001, ACNC Act 2012, and RANZCP Board Regulations.
- Maintain clear distinction between governance oversight and operational management, ensuring the CEO retains authority for day-to-day operations.

- Liaise regularly with the CEO between meetings to monitor implementation of Board decisions and provide guidance on emerging risks and priorities.
- Facilitate effective contribution of all Directors and promote constructive Board culture and performance evaluation.
- Oversee succession planning for the CEO in consultation with the Board.
- Represent and engage with stakeholders on behalf of the College in accordance with agreed strategic priorities and College communications protocols, including being appointed as a Director to the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges.
- Uphold ethical leadership and model integrity, inclusion, and cultural safety consistent with the RANZCP Code of Ethics, Reconciliation Action Plan, and Lived and Living Experience Strategy.
- Ensure adherence to the Delegations of Authority and associated documents and promote transparent decision-making across governance levels.
- Responsible for the efficient and effective organisation and conduct of the Board's functions and help guide and mediate Board actions with respect to College priorities and governance concerns.
- Oversee transition of and provide support to the President-Elect and Directors.
- Participate as a member of RANZCP Board Committees in accordance with the relevant Regulations.
- Encourage and support engagement and communication across all RANZCP committees, members, staff and stakeholders.

Role requirements

The President must:

- Be a Fellow of the RANZCP, having attained Fellowship for at least five years.
- Meet the eligibility requirements for a Director under the Corporations Act 2001.
- Have previous experience as a Director or a demonstrated understanding of the legal, ethical, and fiduciary duties of Directors under the ACNC Act 2012 and Corporations Act 2001.
- Demonstrate understanding of governance responsibilities and commitment to continuing professional governance development through the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) or equivalent.

Desirable Qualities

It is desirable for the President to:

- Have demonstrated expertise in leadership, governance or corporate strategy, with a strong understanding of fiduciary responsibilities.
- Hold peer respect and contribution to psychiatry education, advocacy, or leadership.
- Have previous experience leading or contributing to College Committees or strategic projects.
- Have broad knowledge of the RANZCP's structures and processes.
- Be articulate and comfortable with public speaking and managing meetings.

Competencies and Skills

All Directors, including the President, are expected to demonstrate capability across the following AICD competency domains:

- Governance and Compliance: Understanding statutory obligations, regulatory compliance, and Board accountability.
- Strategy and Performance: Contributing to strategic direction and performance monitoring.

- Financial Literacy and Risk Oversight: Interpreting financial reports and overseeing risk management systems.
- Stakeholder and Member Relations: Maintaining trust and transparent communication with members and external partners.
- Ethical and Cultural Leadership: Promoting diversity, cultural safety, and ethical standards in all governance activities.

Conditions Of Appointment

The RANZCP President:

- Is elected by the RANZCP Fellowship to the position of President-Elect, in accordance with the *Board Election Regulations*.
- Is a full voting member of the RANZCP Board and may exercise a casting vote where there is an equality of votes.
- Receives an annual honorarium, and travel and related expenses provided.
- May resign from the Board at any time upon giving notice in writing to the Company Secretary.
- Is required to attend at least 75% of Board Meetings that are held 7 to 10 times per year either virtually or in-person. Meetings are scheduled within and outside usual working hours and some weekend travel will be required.
- Will cease to be a director if absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board (other than meetings of the Board called on less than 48 hours' notice) without leave of absence.
- Will be required to vacate any College position previously held to meet the requirements of the Director role.
- Will not be eligible for nomination if they do not meet the election eligibility requirements as outlined in the Board Election Regulations.

Review

This Position Description shall be reviewed every two years.

Associated Documents

- RANZCP Constitution, Corporations Act 2001 and ACNC Act 2012
- Committee Meeting Operations Regulation and Associated Documents.
- Board Regulations and Director Position Descriptions
- Board constituent committees' Regulations and related Position Descriptions; and other relevant committee Regulations and Position Descriptions
- Board Election Regulations.
- Appointment of an Appointed Director to the Board Procedure.
- RANZCP Board Induction Manual.

Revision Record

Contact:	Company Secretary		
Authorising Body:	Board		
Responsible Committee:	Corporate Governance Committee		
Document Code:	PD President Position Description		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
12 December 2025	3.0	Board	Refreshed PD template to reflect current standards and articulate expected skills of a Company Director.

19 November 2024	2.3	Company Secretary	Updated to reflect at least 75% meeting attendance, as agreed by Board (B2024/OOS 78).
15 November 2024	2.2	CGRC 2024/6	Reviewed ahead of 2025 President Elect election.
29 November 2023	2.1	PMOOS54	Updated desirable qualities and selection criteria as it relates to board governance education.
12 November 2020	2.0	B2020/OOS R50	Updated key selection criteria
30 April 2017	1.1	B2017/3 R26	Updated to include a role overview, reference to the ACNC
29 May 2013			Effective date
17 November 2012	1.0	GC2012/4 R55	New document.
NEXT REVIEW: 2028			