



## Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

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### Submission to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners: April 2019

#### VISION FOR GENERAL PRACTICE AND A SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on the draft white paper *Vision for General Practice and a Sustainable Healthcare System* (the Vision).

ACEM is the peak body for emergency medicine in Australia and New Zealand, with responsibility for training and educating emergency physicians and advancing professional standards in emergency medicine. As the trusted authority for emergency medicine, ACEM has a vital interest in contributing to a sustainable emergency medicine workforce that provides high quality patient care and upholds the highest possible professional standards in emergency medicine.

As the peak professional organisation for emergency medicine, ACEM has a vital interest in ensuring the highest standards of emergency medical care are maintained for all patients. Fellows of ACEM (FACEMs) are specialist emergency physicians working in emergency departments (EDs) across Australia and New Zealand.

ACEM is supportive of the Vision's aim to improve patient access to primary care in the community, and resource primary care to deliver positive patient outcomes. We support the Vision for holistic and coordinated health services to address health inequalities for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations particularly as it relates to increasing GP access for aged care and rural populations. We recognise that primary care has an important role in avoidable presentations to emergency departments by preventing health issues becoming acute crises through accessible, patient-centred and coordinated care.

ACEM recognises mental health as a significant issue facing the health system in Australia. ACEM's Consensus Statement on Mental Health in the Emergency Department notes that every year over 250,000 people present to an ED in Australia seeking mental health care. Reducing the likelihood and severity of acute episodes of mental illness, by supporting individuals to access community based care that includes after hours support and intensive early interventions, is an advocacy priority for ACEM.

ACEM is also working to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. The [Statement on the Health of Indigenous Peoples](#) recognises that the current burden of disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is substantial. ACEM considers it important that cultural safety is afforded to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families seeking care and treatment. All aspects of the health system need to commit to improve the cultural safety of health care provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In relation to workforce, ACEM looks forward to working with RACGP to develop the next generation of leaders in general practice, including in remote, rural and regional areas, through supporting the development and training of advanced skills in emergency medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft white paper Vision for General Practice and a Sustainable Healthcare System. Should you require clarification or further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Angus, ACEM Policy Officer, on 03 9320 0452 or via email at [ryan.angus@acem.org.au](mailto:ryan.angus@acem.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Judkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Simon Judkins**  
President  
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