26 July 2017

RE: Expert Advisory Group on Discrimination – July update

Dear all,

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Discrimination met on 24 July following the ACEM Board's approval to extend the length of time to undertake our work. I am writing to you to update you on our progress.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the process to date – in particular, the trainees who have contacted us and made submissions.

At our meeting, we met with representatives of some of the complainants, considered the ACEM Board's response to our Interim Report, heard from the Chair of the Council of Education and received a briefing from the President-Elect on the Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment (DBSH) survey findings. We have also reviewed an analysis of College policies relevant to the work of the EAG and agreed on specific recommendations to enhance some aspects of those policies. The EAG also studied further submissions provided to the EAG.

There are mutual actions arising from both the EAG process and the DBSH Project. In light of the crossover in both areas of work, the EAG anticipates working collaboratively with the DBSH Project Working Group on relevant areas.

Over coming weeks, we aim to reach findings and formulate recommendations in relation to the specific complaint and our broader Terms of Reference, with a view to finalising our conclusions at an EAG meeting in September. Our final report will be provided to the College Board in October.

I acknowledge that this is a challenging time for all in the College, especially those involved in examination processes as candidates or examiners.

If you require additional support, please contact Converge International who have been engaged to support ACEM members and trainees: Australia 1300 687 327 New Zealand +61 3 8620 5300.

Specific questions can be sent to eag@acem.org.au. We will ensure that they are answered promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Szoke Chair Expert Advisory Group on Discrimination

The Expert Advisory Group on Discrimination is an independent body established to assess and advise on concerns of discrimination at the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Full details, including the Group's Terms of Reference. are available on the <u>ACEM Website</u>.

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Australasian College for Emergency Medicine 34 Jeffcott Street WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003 +61 3 9320 0444 acem.org.au