

# 2025 Year in Review

ACEM Annual Report





The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) is the not-for-profit organisation responsible for training emergency physicians and the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. As the peak professional organisation for emergency medicine in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, ACEM has a significant interest in ensuring the highest standards of medical care for patients are maintained in emergency departments across both countries.

**Vision**

To be the trusted authority for ensuring clinical, professional and training standards in the provision of quality, evidence-based, patient-centred emergency care.

**Mission**

Promote excellence in the delivery of quality emergency care to all of our communities through our committed and expert members.

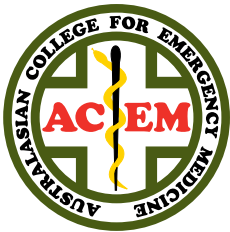
The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which our office is located. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

In recognition that we are a bi-national College, ACEM acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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Cover photo: Nepean Hospital Emergency Department



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# President's Report

Report of the ACEM Board

Dr Stephen Gourley, President



*'A priority during my presidency has been shining a spotlight on regional, rural and remote emergency medicine.'*

It has been a busy and exciting year for ACEM, with significant activity across several important sectors. During 2024-2025, ACEM continued to work diligently to support its members and advocate for a better, more inclusive and equitable healthcare system.

Emergency medicine is an essential part of driving this change, with ACEM active behind the scenes, taking a place at the table to help guide the process.

A priority during my presidency has been shining a spotlight on regional, rural and remote (RRR) emergency medicine and encouraging our Fellows and trainees to make the move into the welcoming and rewarding country communities across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Highlights include the inaugural RRR Emergency Medicine Conference 2024 held in Darwin/

Gulumerrdgen. It was an exceptional opportunity for rural emergency professionals to share knowledge and form connections with colleagues from Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and further afield.

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2024 in Adelaide and the Aotearoa New Zealand Emergency Medicine Conference 2025 held in Tairāwhiti, Gisborne, also explored the themes of RRR, equity and inclusion.

Led by the Regional, Rural and Remote Advisory Committee (RRRAC), the second *Rural Health Action Plan* (RuHAP) was launched. This practical document is a roadmap to increase engagement in RRR emergency medicine and pilot inventive strategies aimed at building and upskilling the emergency medicine workforce.

The College completed the Blended Supervision Pilot (BSP) Project, supported by Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) and Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) funding. This project explored whether regional, rural and remote sites not currently accredited for FACEM emergency department (ED) training could provide a six-

month FTE, 100 per cent ED training placement for a FACEM trainee using a blended supervision model. Two non-funded pilots are still underway.

The College also continued its work on the ACEM Accredited Training Network (ATN) Project, similarly supported by DHDA and FATES funding. This project aims to improve access to FACEM training opportunities in regional and rural Australia. The model is a combination of on-site clinical supervision and remote training supervision.

ACEM launched the *State of Emergency 2024: Regional, Rural and Remote (SOE24)* report which revealed that the emergency medicine workforce crisis impacting public hospitals throughout Australia is worse in RRR areas.

The report, which gained a great deal of media attention, raised awareness that the fundamental issues causing Australia's emergency medicine crisis – access block, long waits for admission and fewer public hospital beds – are as common in RRR areas as in the cities.

The College had productive meetings with stakeholders in Canberra, as well as at state and territory level, to help secure crucial funding to

protect the future of the Emergency Medicine Education and Training (EMET) program.

I met with Aotearoa New Zealand's Health Minister Simeon Brown and Australia's Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler, as well as every state and territory health minister, engaging in meaningful discussions about the key issues affecting our sector.

The College has been actively consulting bi-nationally with health leaders and policymakers to advocate for community priorities. These conversations centred on tackling current challenges, exploring opportunities for improvement, and amplifying the voices of experts within our field at the highest levels of policy and planning.

ACEM also launched the *Breaking Point: An Urgent Call to Action on Emergency Department Safety* report which raised the alarm on the rising prevalence of violence in Australian EDs. It is a priority to keep members safe in their workplaces, and federal, state, territory and local hospital recommendations were provided to address this significant problem, which demands immediate and systemic intervention.





*Left: Members of the Regional, Rural and Remote Advisory Committee meet in Melbourne. Top: Display showing where delegates who attended the RRR Emergency Medicine Conference reside. Bottom: ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley presents at the RRR Emergency Medicine Conference.*

The College followed this up with *When Care Meets Conflict: Violence in Aotearoa New Zealand's Emergency Departments*. The report revealed that since the Aotearoa New Zealand government's 2024 budget investment to place 24/7 security staff in 'high risk' EDs, progress had stalled. The reports generated widespread bi-national media coverage and resulted in engagement from health stakeholders across the systems. They helped drive immediate and ongoing discussion and action on the most critical issues facing the provision of healthcare.

The College set the scene for change with the release of the *ACEM Strategy 2025-2030*, the first of its kind in this format. Developed following consultation with members, staff and stakeholders, it is a blueprint for ACEM's future, following the principle of mahi tahi – working together to solve problems.

Over the past year, ACEM has advanced Te Rautaki Manaaki Mana by amplifying Māori health leadership and embedding kaupapa Māori values across emergency medicine. ACEM contributed to national media and government forums on cultural safety, equity and workforce

development, ensuring Te Rautaki Manaaki Mana priorities remain visible at policy and sector levels. Engagement with members was strengthened through targeted events, cultural safety education and new resources, reinforcing ACEM's commitment to equity and partnership across Aotearoa New Zealand.

I am pleased to report we are making meaningful progress towards our goals with ACEM's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Our recent efforts have started to yield positive results, and the momentum we have built is both encouraging and promising for the next phases of our work.

In response to the Australian government's Scope of Practice Review and a series of consultations being run by the Aotearoa New Zealand government in the health workforce planning and regulatory space, ACEM called on health system leaders bi-nationally to prioritise workforce solutions. Long-standing deficits in health workforce planning and resourcing cannot be addressed solely by expanding the scope of the current healthcare workforce or by introducing non-medical practitioner roles.

In 2023–2024, the Assessment Improvement Reference Group (AIRG) convened to review and advance assessments in the FACEM Training Program and specialist international medical graduate pathways. In 2025, trainees and members were consulted via a survey with the responses now under consideration by the AIRG. This reflects a forward-looking mindset and builds on the foundations of the past while embracing new opportunities for growth and improvement.

Our College's strength is in its members, trainees and staff, and I thank you for your tireless dedication and commitment. I want you to know that we see you, we hear you and we're always advocating for you.

**Dr Stephen Gourley**  
President





# ACEM Board

as of 30 June 2025



**Dr Stephen Gourley**  
ACEM President



**Dr Peter Allely**  
President-Elect



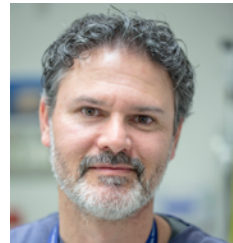
**Dr Belinda Hibble**  
Chair, Council of Advocacy,  
Practice and Partnerships



**Dr Kate Field**  
Censor-in-Chief and Chair,  
Council of Education



**Professor Didier Palmer OAM**  
General FACEM Member



**Dr Glenn Harrison**  
General FACEM Member



**Dr Kush Wangoo**  
Trainee Member



**Ms Joy Rogers**  
Community Member



**Mr Craig Hodges**  
Non-FACEM Board Member



**Ms Libby Pallot**  
Non-FACEM Board Member

# ACEM Councils

Membership

## Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP)

**Dr Belinda Hibble**, Chair

**Dr Juan Carlos Ascencio-Lane**, Deputy Chair

**Dr Stephen Gourley**, President

**Dr Peter Allely**, Western Australia (until November 2024), President-Elect (from November 2024)

**Dr Clare Skinner**, Immediate Past President  
(until November 2024)

**Dr Kate Allan**, Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Michael Connelly**, Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Aline Archambeau**, Australian Capital Territory

**Dr Trevor Chan**, New South Wales

**Dr Andrew Coggins**, New South Wales

**Dr Rhys Ross-Browne**, New South Wales

**Dr Jules Willcocks**, Northern Territory

**Dr Shantha Raghwan**, Queensland

**Dr Ajith Thampi**, Queensland

**Dr Justin Thompson**, Queensland

**Dr Daniel Haustead**, South Australia

**Dr Paul Spillane**, Tasmania

**Dr Andrew Blunt**, Victoria

**Dr Pippa Flinn**, Victoria

**Associate Professor Mark Putland**, Victoria

**Dr Eve Foreman**, Western Australia

**Dr Kym Moiler**, Western Australia (from March 2025)

**Dr Nicola Sandler**, Trainee Committee Chair

**Ms Louise Johnson**, Community Member

## Council of Education (COE)

**Dr Kate Field**, Censor-in-Chief

**Dr Anoushka Perera**, Deputy Censor-in-Chief

**Dr Stephen Gourley**, President

**Dr Peter Allely**, President-Elect (from November 2024)

**Dr Clare Skinner**, Immediate Past President  
(until November 2024)

**Dr Shakeeb Bani Yaseen**, Regional Censor for  
Australian Capital Territory (from November 2024)

**Dr Selina Watchorn**, Regional Censor for Australian  
Capital Territory (until November 2024)

**Dr Jenni Davidson**, Regional Censor for New South  
Wales (from November 2024)

**Dr Miguel Taliana**, Regional Censor for New South  
Wales (until November 2024)

**Dr Darren Khodaverdi**, Regional Censor for  
Aotearoa New Zealand

**Dr Rebecca Day**, Regional Censor for Northern  
Territory (until May 2025)

**Dr Myat Win**, Regional Censor for Northern Territory  
(from June 2025)

**Dr Darren Powrie**, Regional Censor for Queensland

**Dr Peter Bruce**, Regional Censor for South Australia

**Dr Laura Pulbrook**, Regional Censor for Tasmania

**Dr Phyllis Fu**, Regional Censor for Victoria

**Dr Simone Bartlett**, Regional Censor for Western  
Australia (until November 2024)

**Dr Thomas Redfern**, Regional Censor for Western  
Australia (from November 2024)

**Dr Nicola Sandler**, Trainee Committee Chair

**Ms Jennifer Morris**, Community Member



# ACEM in Numbers

Membership Categories (as of 30 June 2025)

## Fellows

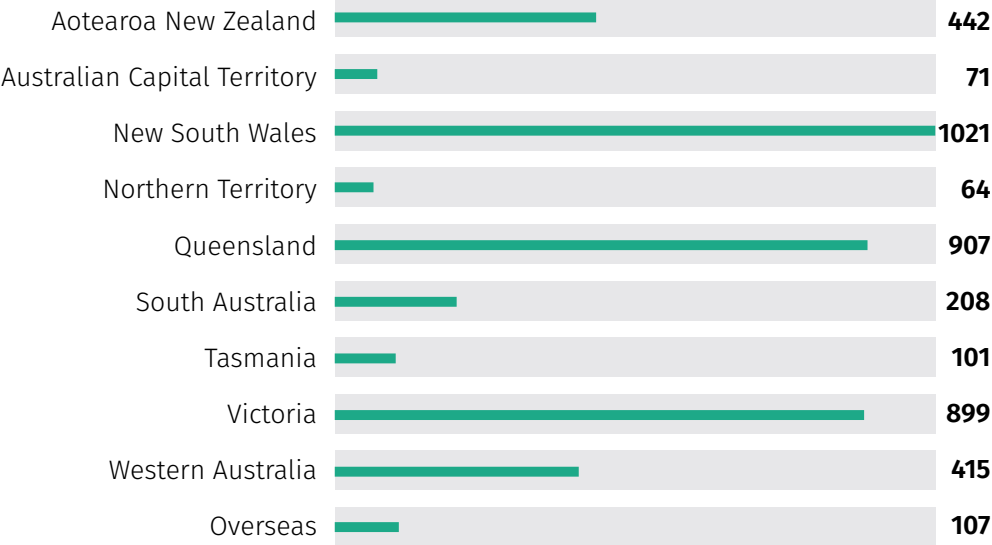
4235

Active Fellows

318

New Fellows between  
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

## Active Fellows by Region



## Training Programs as of 30 June 2025

245

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Foundational  
Emergency Medicine  
Training Program**

129

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Intermediate  
Emergency Medicine  
Training Program**

69

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Advanced  
Emergency Medicine  
Training Program**

140

trainees registered  
in the **Associateship  
in Pre-Hospital and  
Retrieval Medicine  
Training Program**

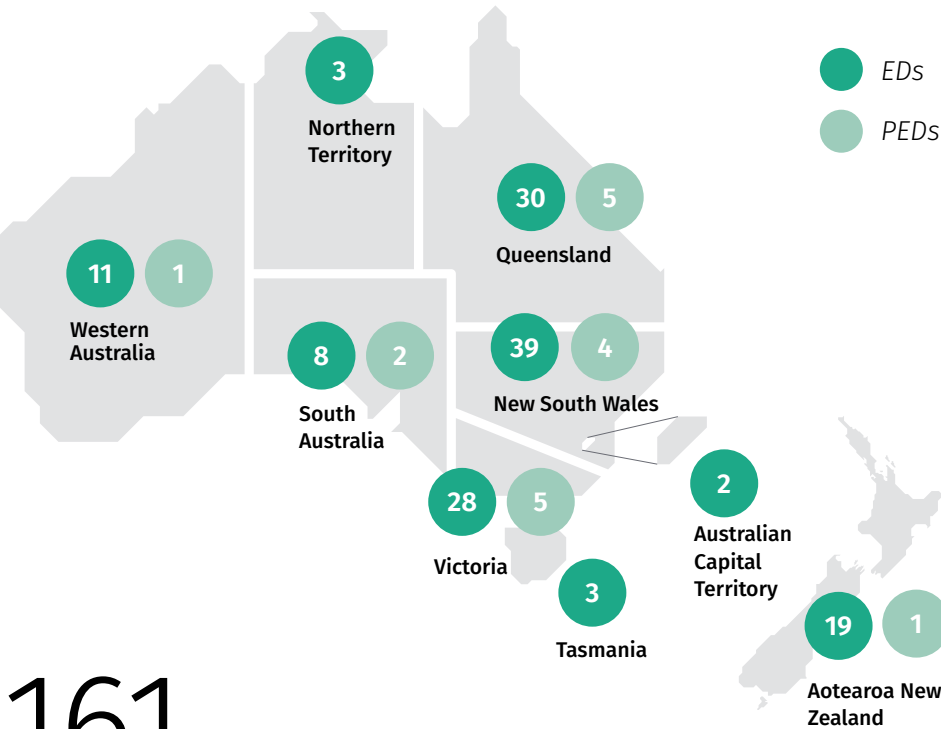
2400

**FACEM Training Program**  
trainees

283

**Paediatric Emergency Medicine  
Training Program** trainees

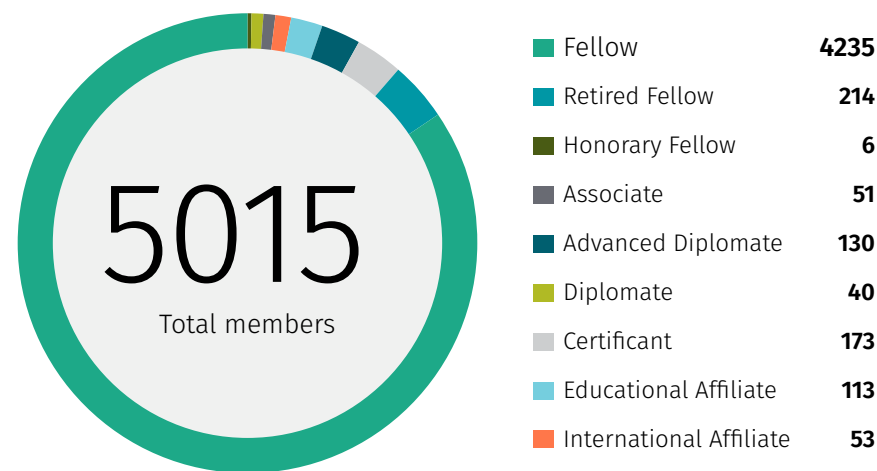
## ACEM-accredited emergency department training sites (FACEM Training Program)



161

At the end of June 2025, a total of 143 emergency departments (EDs) were accredited by ACEM for the delivery of FACEM training in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (either adult-only EDs or EDs), as well as 18 sites accredited as paediatric-only EDs (PEDs).

## Membership Categories (as of 30 June 2025)



## Advocacy

### Submissions

27

**submissions** to policy inquiries between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Of these:

- **Eight submissions** were made in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **10 submissions** were made at a federal or national level in Australia.
- **Nine submissions** were made at state or territory level in Australia.
- **15 submissions** were focused on health system reform, including workforce.
- **Nine submissions** addressed clinical guidelines and regulations.
- **Two submissions** focused on public health.
- **One submission** focused on other legislation.

### Meetings

More than **40 meetings** with politicians and/or their senior advisors, alongside a large number of engagements with senior public servants.





## COE Report

Dr Kate Field, Chair and Censor-in-Chief

The 2024-2025 year enabled the Council of Education (COE) to consolidate and advance the conversation around aspects of the FACEM Training Program that needed revision. This has taken place within a changing landscape in medical specialty training as dictated by our regulators, that all specialist medical colleges are grappling with.

After a period of consultation, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) developed the Model Accreditation Standards and Procedures that are expected to be adopted by all specialist medical colleges. ACEM's current accreditation policies are already closely aligned with the standards and, as such, ACEM has agreed to be an early adopter of the AMC model. There is already work underway by Fellows and staff to enable the College to transition to the AMC Model Accreditation Standards and Procedures. This work will continue into 2026, with an anticipated implementation date in 2027.

As part of this work, the current tiers of accreditation for training are being reviewed and more will be communicated to Fellows throughout 2026.

In June, the ACEM Board approved the concept of a six-month core emergency department term in regional, rural and/or remote (RRR) areas, known as the RRR training requirement for FACEM trainees.

Again, a working group has been formed to ensure that this will occur in an informed, sustainable and equitable manner. The working group will be informed by the evaluation of the FATES-funded Blended Supervision Pilot, as well as the Accredited Training Network Project pilot that is currently in progress. We envisage that the RRR training requirement will only apply to trainees enrolling in the FACEM Training Program from 2027 onwards.

This year saw the rollout of the Expedited Specialist pathway for specialist international medical graduates. This has already been implemented for general practitioners, anaesthetists, psychiatrists and obstetricians/gynaecologists, with the vast majority of participants coming from the United Kingdom (UK). While emergency physicians (with qualifications from the UK and Ireland) were expected to be included in the next batch of specialties, implementation has been delayed pending a report from the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman.

In January, new ACEM Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) enrolments were paused to allow the College Education and Training team and IT team to review the program and develop the platform to administer PEM training. We are pleased to announce that PEM enrolments will be re-opened in January 2026, in time for the next training year.

Trainees and FACEMs who had intended to enrol in 2025 will have training time completed in 2025 recognised through the *Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer*, should they still wish to enrol in 2026.

This year has also seen the formation of the Education Strategy and Engagement Committee. This committee was formed to provide strategic advice to COE and oversee ACEM education products, initiatives and materials, ensuring compliance with ACEM guidelines, policies and relevant processes.

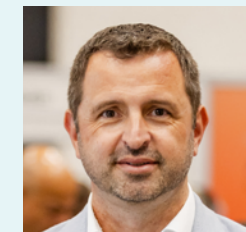
The group is currently working on developing of continuing professional development pathways, related to specific areas of interest, to support FACEMs and Associate members with their ongoing professional development.

The Assessment Improvement Reference Group (AIRG) published an interim report outlining various options for assessment improvement. This was widely circulated and received huge engagement and response from Fellows and trainees.

On behalf of Dr Clare Skinner, Chair of AIRG, I would like to thank everyone who responded to the survey. We greatly appreciate the time and energy every single response took, and we are looking forward to ensuring the feedback informs recommendations to COE in the next financial year.

Once again, I acknowledge the hard work and would like to thank all the members, trainees and staff who work together to ensure ACEM continues to deliver world-class training programs. Without the pro bono work from the committee chairs, deputies and members, as well as the heavy lifting done by the Directors of Emergency Medicine Training, Workplace-based Assessment Coordinators, Associateship supervisors, Emergency Medicine Education and Training providers and all of our examiners, there would not be training programs, nor would there be an Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

Finally, I could not do this role justice without the support of Dr Anoushka Perera, Deputy Censor-in-Chief, whose counsel I regularly seek, as well as the support of the Regional Censors and Regional Deputy Censors, and of course the ACEM staff – in particular Ms Anna Kaider, Mr Jared Price, Ms Penny Holmes, Ms Caroline Burrowes and Mr Brendan Peek.



## CEO Report

Brendan Peek

Over the past year, ACEM has built strong momentum across its strategic priorities, moving from the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan into the new 2025-2030 Strategy. Developed through extensive consultation, this six-year roadmap focuses on education and training excellence, member growth and wellbeing, organisational capability and sustainability, health equity, advocacy and research. These priorities have guided all College activity throughout 2025.

In the face of significant bi-national challenges across the health sector and emergency departments, ACEM delivered a targeted advocacy program, with leadership at both national and jurisdictional levels critical to this effort. A major achievement was the unconditional accreditation of the FACEM Training Program by the Australian Medical Council until 2028 – the maximum allowable extension under the regulations.

Membership of the College across all categories grew by about 8 per cent in 2025, following 7 per cent growth in the previous year. To support and enhance this membership growth, the new Education Strategy and Engagement Committee began work on mapping the full member journey – from medical student to retirement – to better support members at each stage of their career. Internally, the College also commenced a major multi-year digital transformation project, designed to modernise and expand how members engage with ACEM.

As ACEM enters this new phase, the foundations established in 2025 highlight the strength and commitment of its community. With a clear vision, active partnerships and ambitious goals, the College is well placed to advance excellence in emergency medicine across the communities it serves.





# CAPP Report

Dr Belinda Hibble, Chair

Throughout 2024–2025, the Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP) continued to focus on advocacy priorities agreed on by members: namely patient access and flow, health equity, Indigenous health, respect and cultural awareness, emergency medicine (EM) research capacity and quality, evidence-based, patient-centred emergency care.

## Supporting rural health equity

ACEM is committed to an equitably distributed EM workforce, increased regional, rural and remote (RRR) training opportunities and improved rural service provision across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

- During the Australian federal election campaign, ACEM emphasised the need to secure the financial future of our federally funded Emergency Medicine Education and Training (EMET) program.
- The second *Rural Health Action Plan* (RuHAP) incorporated new strategic initiatives to grow ACEM's RRR presence, extending beyond emergency specialists to the entire RRR EM workforce via collaborative partnerships.
- The Accredited Training Networks (ATN) Project is piloting two regional/rural ATNs in Australia as part of a federally funded project. The long-term ATN value lies in sustainable, adaptable and scalable modelling.

- More than 1800 trainees completed the 2024 ACEM Trainee Placement Survey, which included specific questions on motivations for undertaking RRR training placements. Those who undertook RRR placements described fulfilment and professional development opportunities.
- The *State of Emergency: Regional, Rural and Remote 2024* report found that demand for emergency care in RRR areas is 27 per cent higher than in cities, but the specialist EM workforce is 22 per cent lower. The proportion of patients seen on time is declining, with a drastic increase in patients leaving before treatment.

## Advocating for safer EDs

An ACEM snapshot survey showed that emergency department (ED) violence is ubiquitous and escalating. Responses from 98 ACEM-accredited EDs found:

- 90 per cent reported violent incidents in the past week.
- 54 per cent reported that physical violence occurred one or more times a week.

The survey informed two national ACEM reports, *Breaking Point: An Urgent Call to Action on Emergency Department Safety* (Australia) and *When Care Meets Conflict: Violence in Aotearoa New Zealand's Emergency Departments* (NZ), coinciding with the Australian federal election and the Aotearoa New Zealand 2025 budget. The reports highlighted the prevalence of violence in EDs and the contribution of systemic issues such as overcrowding and access block, calling for stronger national leadership, dedicated security and greater employer duty-of-care.

## Australian federal election

Vigorous campaigning ahead of the May 2025 federal election was informed by member consultation and focused on issues where ACEM has agency. Regular meetings with ministers provided unprecedented access to decision-makers. Our engagement was solution-focused and purposefully aligned with budget timelines. ACEM's pre-budget submission mirrored our election priorities of rural health equity, EM research and safety in the ED.

Clarity of method also characterised ACEM's jurisdictional campaigning, driven by local intelligence-gathering, articulation of specific, solution-driven aims, and non-partisan engagement with parties.

## Preparing for population ageing

An ACEM *Statement of Commitment on Emergency Medicine Preparedness for Population Ageing* advocates for urgent strategic action to ensure equitable access to person-centred emergency care for older persons. Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand are at population tipping points, with ED presentations by older persons escalating significantly. Projections for 2050 predict increases in ED presentations of 242 per cent and 411 per cent by those aged 65–84 and 85+. Due to complexity of healthcare needs, the growth in older person presentations will disproportionately impact the viability of acute systems.

## Faculties to become 'Branches'

During the April 2025 sitting of CAPP, recommendations from a review of ACEM's Faculties were approved – paving the way for the implementation of Branches in November 2025.

- The term 'Faculty' will be replaced with 'Branch'.
- The Aotearoa New Zealand Faculty will be renamed the 'Aotearoa New Zealand National Branch'.

- The term 'Faculty Board' will be replaced by 'Branch Council'.
- Branch Councils will comprise 11 FACEM members and one in the category of Certificant, Diplomate, Advanced Diplomate, or Associate (Immediate or Advanced), appointed via expression of interest.

The changes will bolster grassroots engagement, engender mutual support and connection, and optimise member-led regional advocacy.

## Achieving Indigenous workforce parity

A new statement formalises ACEM's intent to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori FACEM numbers and enhance culturally safe healthcare. It highlights the workplace cultural load carried by Indigenous staff. Parity goals are:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:** Health services must adapt ED staffing to deliver equitable healthcare. The ED staffing model should enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members to deliver part of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patient's care episode.
- **Māori:** Māori trainees completing their Fellowship should achieve population parity with the medical workforce of Aotearoa New Zealand by 2045.

## Non-medical practitioners working in EDs

Throughout the year, CAPP worked on major revisions to P67 Policy on *Non-medical Practitioners Working in Emergency Departments*. The policy responds to significant national/ jurisdictional discussions happening across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand aimed at increasing medical workforce capacity. ACEM believes that producing doctors capable of making accurate differential diagnoses in critical situations is more cost-effective than substitute/proxy solutions, a view founded on safety and quality rather than protectionism.



Supporting later career FACEMs in clinical practice

During 2024-2025, CAPP engaged in the development of a new ACEM *Position Statement on Later Career FACEMs in Clinical Practice*, with a goal of encouraging physicians to reflect on their career paths, raising awareness on age-related changes, and guiding workforce planning/rostering practices. It emphasises the organisational value of later career emergency physicians by recognising their ongoing contributions beyond the acute clinical environment.

Accessing interactive data dashboards

ACEM's annual EM workforce profile, as of 31 December 2024, showed there were 4075 FACEMs (6 per cent increase from 2023) and 2206 FACEM trainees (2 per cent decrease from 2023). Female FACEMs have increased from 30 per cent to 41 per cent since 2011, with female FACEM trainees now surpassing male (52 per cent vs 48 per cent). The number of FACEMs working at more than one workplace has doubled in a decade (48 per cent vs 24 per cent). There was a 58 per cent increase in FACEMs working in RRR areas (19 per cent to 30 per cent) with only 17 per cent of FACEM trainees undertaking a placement outside metropolitan areas.

From 2025, the workforce report will be presented as interactive dashboards. Similar to the *Annual Census Dashboard*, this will enable customised data views, support ED benchmarking, and inform an understanding of supply/demand factors (through vacancy and distribution data).

Developing EM standards

The following ACEM standards have been developed/updated:

- *P37 Forensic Testing and Examination in Emergency Departments*
- *P53 Supervision of Early Career Doctors in the Emergency Department*
- *P35 Child at Risk*
- *S17 Clinical Support Time Allocation*
- *P32 Violence in Emergency Departments*
- *G03 Joint Guideline for the Transport of Critically Ill Patients*
- *P36 Clinical Handover in the Emergency Department*
- *S935 Role of the Paediatric Clinical Lead in Emergency Departments*
- *P33 Emergency Department Disaster Preparedness and Response*
- *P39 Identifying and Responding to Family and Domestic Violence and Abuse in the Emergency Department*
- *S961 Later Career FACEMs in Clinical Practice*
- *P455 End-of-Life and Palliative Care in the Emergency Department*
- *S963 Emergency Department Design Principles: Developing Functional, Safe and Therapeutic EDs*
- *S962 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Workforce Parity in Emergency Medicine*

ACEM has provided 27 submissions to state and national consultations in the last year. All professional standards and ACEM submissions can be accessed through ACEM's *Standards and Advocacy Library*.

Celebrating ACEM Prize Winners

ACEM is proud to congratulate all winners of the Buchanan Prize and Joseph Epstein Prize throughout the 2024-2025 financial year.

The 2024.2 and 2025.1 Buchanan Prize winners

The Buchanan Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort of the Fellowship Examination (Clinical), also known as the 'OSCE', on their first attempt of the examination. The examination is held twice each year.

A total of 277 trainees sat the 2024.2 OSCE examination, which was held at Cliftons in Sydney.

Dr Lidia Samcewicz-Parham

Emergency medicine as a specialty was never on Dr Lidia Samcewicz-Parham's radar as a junior doctor. She had envisaged becoming a GP when she did a Northern Territory placement.



'I did ED training there. I loved that it was like a team sport. I enjoyed the problem-solving aspect.'

Exam preparation included leaning into moments in her everyday work that were opportunities for exam practice, such as obtaining a patient's consent for a procedure.

Her partner was studying for the same exam and being able to study together had the most positive impact on preparing for the exam.

During the mock OSCEs she focused on reading the STEM rather than trying to predict the questions, 'to truly understand the nuances of the situation and to have faith that I would come up with reasonable answers to whatever was asked'.

On exam day, it was helpful to imagine she was interacting with a real patient at her hospital and 'to do or say the things that I'd do in real life'.

Dr James Wayte

Just two days after his son's birth, Dr James Wayte had a second reason to celebrate when he found out he had been awarded the Buchanan Prize.

Dr Wayte's study approach was drilling down on stations he found most challenging. 'It was repeat and repeat until I was strong across all stations.'

His advice is to have a strong understanding of the exam structure, the types of stations and the exam's time constraints.

'I often tell people that given enough time anyone could probably answer the questions. So it's about practising to consolidate precise answers under time pressure and to convey core knowledge rather than only the textbook answer that you may have prepared for the written exam.'

He is grateful for his DEMENT's support which included advice on work-life balance.

He said he likes the variety of emergency medicine. 'No two days are the same. It's a broad mix of different presentations and skills.'

A total of 219 candidates sat the 2025.1 OSCE examination, which was held at Cliftons in Sydney.

Dr Joanna Belcher

Dr Joanna Belcher was holding her two-week-old baby when she found out she had been awarded the Buchanan Prize.



To prepare for the exam, Dr Belcher split previous example stations by type and worked through stations in each category, creating a structure for each.



Celebrating ACEM Prize Winners cont'd

Her study tips include practising the stations out loud, recapping content in the context of a station, not revising notes for hours, and doing trials to practice controlling your nerves.

Thirty-two weeks pregnant when she sat the OSCE, she was grateful for her husband's support. 'Training has been varied thanks to a partner who is open to adventure and diverting from the well-trodden path.'

Emergency medicine appealed for many reasons. 'It's varied, enables problem solving, it's collegial, and a challenge medically and logistically.'

**Dr Kathryn Lally**

Dr Kathryn Lally, awarded the Buchanan Prize, said she is grateful to ACEM for supporting her training, which has been different to most of her colleagues.



'As a family we've been caravanning throughout the country for the past four years. No other training program would have allowed that flexibility.'

As a regional candidate working in an isolated area, she reached out to FACEMs throughout Australia asking to participate in their OSCE practice.

'They were very generous with their time. I travelled twice to Perth for practice exams. In regional WA, I relied on locums who came to town to do OSCE practice with me.'

She advises not to let study and exams overrun your life.

'I have three children and knew if I didn't spend time with them my anxiety levels would go up and study productivity go down. You need to do regular study but maintain oversight of what else is important, like family and friends.'

**Dr Ian Marley**

Dr Ian Marley had felt self-doubt after doing the exam so felt very surprised when he found out he had won the Buchanan Prize.



'I worried about passing. I got a lot of "I told you so's" and "We knew you would be fine" comments when I told the consultants I worked with the news.'

His advice is to prepare and sort your life, 'because life doesn't go on pause just because you're studying. It was a priority to be present for my partner and child.'

His wife, a full-time surgical trainee, was his biggest support. 'She was working longer hours than me and with a young child she held the fort. I'm still trying to repay that.'

Emergency medicine appeals on many levels: 'The scope of practice and wide variety of cases. Every day you're seeing patients from all walks of life. The regular surprise of seeing something that you've never encountered before makes the work interesting.'

**Dr Brad Ryan**

Dr Brad Ryan's first inspiration to do emergency medicine was watching the TV series ER as a child.



'Then, as an intern, I fell in love with the specialty. You treat anyone who comes through the door. People think emergency medicine is about resuscitation but it's the patient interactions which make the biggest difference and are most rewarding.'

The Buchanan Prize winner said the decision to do the exams can be a scary prospect.

'It can be daunting, but it's important to believe in yourself. Telling yourself you've been in stressful situations before, passed previous exams, and this is just one more hurdle to overcome.'

While the exam result was a huge milestone, the most significant moment was the joy he and his wife felt when they had their baby.

'We'd gone through IVF treatment, and our son was born soon after I'd completed the written exam. My achievement is small compared to what she did.'

**Dr Alyce Scanlan**

Dr Alyce Scanlan said being awarded the Buchanan Prize was welcome news after all the hard work.



'I did practice stations at the hospital every day, studying while I was driving to and from work, and did team calls with my fellow registrars. I was living, breathing and dreaming it!'

She is grateful to her husband 'who stepped back from work to help look after our young kids' and extended family. 'They cheered me on and helped where they could.'

She advises practising with consultants and registrars and taking on their advice.

A balanced approach is also key. 'Time with family to rest and reset will help you go into the exam feeling calm and prepared.'

Emergency medicine aligned with everything she wanted in a specialty – problem solving, cognitive and hands-on procedural skills.

'The ED feels like a family. You're also forming relationships with junior colleagues by mentoring and teaching them. I like being part of their journey.'

**Dr Melanie Withers**

'I love my job. My happiest days are when I'm in the paediatric area of the ED making sick kids feel better and allaying their parents' fears,' said Dr Melanie Withers, who found out she had won the Buchanan Prize while travelling to Greece for a post-exam holiday.



While preparing for the exams felt like a long process, she had a very supportive study group who were 'brutally honest'.

Dr Withers said she was also lucky to work with consultants who were happy to help, and to have the support of her partner.

Her top advice for future candidates is to make sure it's the right time to do the exam, which includes having support from others.

'Also consider stepping down to 0.75, which I found was perfect to maintain balance between study, going out for lunch, walking the dogs and not feeling guilty.'

**The 2024.2 and 2025.1 Joseph Epstein Prize winners**

The Joseph Epstein Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort at the Primary Viva Examination on their first attempt of the examination. The examination is held twice each year.

A total of 177 trainees sat the 2024.2 Viva examination, which was held at Cliftons in Sydney.

**Dr Christian Turton**

Dr Christian Turton said he and his wife worried that their newborn daughter's first word was going to be something medical.

His approach to study was to do a little every day to maintain the exam mindset. 'Respect the exam process and it will respect you. There is no alternative to putting in the preparation hours.'

Learning he had been awarded the Joseph Epstein Prize, 'was a good excuse to open some bubbles, and the timing was good as I was having a day off with my wife and daughter,' Dr Turton said.

His wife Liv was his biggest support. 'She's an ACEM advanced trainee herself and has taught me many things over the years – and helped me become more organised.'



He likes the variety of emergency medicine. ‘Doing different things and seeing something new keeps me engaged. ACEM acknowledges the importance of family life, and the work schedule offers greater flexibility than most specialities.’

**Dr Bright Zhang**

Dr Bright Zhang, awarded the Joseph Epstein Prize, advises future candidates to check in with fellow exam sitters. ‘It may feel lonely practising by yourself, so it’s important to let each other know that you’re all in this together.’

Dr Zhang recommends practising questions with colleagues and consultants. To prepare for the exam, he and his fellow exam sitters took turns in assessing each other with past paper questions. ‘We then split off to revise the material covered during that practice paper and repeated this process several times a week.’

The two main factors that drew him to emergency medicine? ‘The workup of an undifferentiated sick patient and shift work. The ability to finish up my day and start afresh the very next drew me in. It feels like I’m making a difference.’

*A total of 151 trainees sat the 2025.1 Viva examination, which was held at Cliftons in Sydney.*

**Dr Jarrod Chakos**

After what felt like a ‘marathon’ leading up to the exam, Dr Jarrod Chakos aptly went for a run to burn up the excited energy he had after finding out he’d been awarded the Joseph Epstein Prize.



The first step to prepare for exams was recognising that there would be less time for life commitments and leisure – and asking himself if this was the right time. Once he decided it was, he prioritised getting his life in order.

He recommends taking ‘time out’ and ticking off a few activities in one go, ‘like going for a run with a friend or cleaning the house listening to a podcast’.

Dr Chakos said being in Darwin was good for his downtime. ‘It was incredible to have the beaches, beautiful landscapes, the markets. Balancing study with nature and being with friends made it easier.’

He describes emergency medicine as a mix of clinical medicine, leadership and logistics. ‘All of that together is problem solving, finding the best solutions, being adaptable. You have the privilege of patients trusting you to deliver the best care.’

**Dr Samantha Jaco**

Dr Samantha Jaco said receiving the Joseph Epstein Prize was confirmation of her hard work.



Study tips include lots of repetition and practising answering questions out loud.

‘I did that with my lovely dad, who’s retired and not medical. He was wonderful and dedicated hours asking me questions while we went on walks.’

She recommends consistent study over time, ‘breaking it up into regular small sessions. Cramming is not going to do it.’

Group revision made the biggest difference. ‘Seeing other people going through the same thing and giving you support.’

Dr Jaco said her partner shouldered many domestic responsibilities while she studied. She is also grateful to emergency consultants she looks up to, especially Dr Meghann Law who inspired her when she did her internship.

Deciding on a specialty was difficult as she liked everything she tried. ‘Emergency medicine was the most balanced rotation. I loved it. My emergency medicine colleagues are people I align with.’

**ACEM Faculty Boards**



**Aotearoa  
New Zealand**

**Dr Kate Allan**  
Faculty Chair



**South Australia**

**Dr Michael Edmonds**  
Faculty Chair



**Australian Capital  
Territory**

**Dr Aline Archambeau**  
Faculty Chair



**Tasmania**

**Dr Juan Carlos Ascencio-Lane**  
Faculty Chair



**New South Wales**

**Dr Rhys Ross-Browne**  
Faculty Chair



**Victoria**

**Associate Professor  
Mark Putland**  
Faculty Chair



**Northern Territory**

**Professor Didier Palmer  
OAM**  
Faculty Chair



**Western Australia**

**Dr Vanessa Clayden**  
Faculty Chair



**Queensland**

**Dr Shantha Raghwan**  
Faculty Chair





*Main: Dr Leana Louw, ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley and ACEM CEO Brendan Peek and at Hutt Hospital in Aotearoa New Zealand. Inset top: Dr Gourley and Queensland Faculty Chair Dr Shantha Raghwan with Mater Hospital ED trainees. Inset bottom: Dr Gourley and ACEM staff meet with Australian Health Minister Mark Butler and then-Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney.*

In 2024–2025, the Aotearoa New Zealand and Australian Faculties remained active and connected, bringing members together across 55 meetings held both online and in person. These forums not only provided valuable opportunities for collaboration and exchange but were also enriched by themed discussions and guest speakers, making the most popular sessions especially engaging and impactful.

The Aotearoa New Zealand Faculty held two in-person member meetings over the year – the first at the WISE Conference in October, and again in March at the Aotearoa New Zealand Emergency Medicine Conference. These gatherings gave members the chance to come together and help shape the Faculty Board’s advocacy priorities, with discussions focusing on access block, workforce pressures and occupational violence in emergency departments (EDs) nationwide.

Over the same 12-month period, the Faculty Board engaged and met with the Minister of Health and made eight submissions to government, attracting strong engagement on issues such as expanding scopes of practice, health workforce regulation, and the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill.

The Northern Territory Faculty’s July meeting was held during ACEM’s first Regional, Rural and Remote Emergency Medicine Conference, offering a rare opportunity for many Northern Territory-based members to gather in person.

The Victorian Faculty’s November meeting included the Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, addressing more than 100 members in person and online.

In Queensland, Dr Gayle Galletta, Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Massachusetts, joined FACEMs in Townsville to speak about the growing issue of burnout and reflect on her own personal experiences. A few months later, with Tropical Cyclone Alfred looming ominously off the coast, Hervey Bay played hosting duties, with Professor Riitta Partanen, Director of the University of Queensland Rural Clinical School, presenting on ‘Geographical Narcissism’.

In Lismore, the New South Wales Faculty discussed planning and responding to critical incidents and emergencies with the NSW Health State Preparedness and Response Unit, including learnings from recent floods in the region.

Later in the year, the Faculty welcomed Dr Gordon Reid MP, a FACEM trainee who also serves as the Federal Member for Robertson. His visit offered a unique insight into balancing the demands of FACEM training with the responsibilities of parliamentary life.

The benefits of collaboration and information sharing were on display in Launceston in October, where a panel discussion involved key representatives of Primary Health Tasmania, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. This format proved a hit with attendees, with future panel discussions in the pipeline for a range of ACEM Faculties.

South Australia’s November meeting at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital allowed for members across the state to tour the new Kangkanthi clinical services building and its ED. In Western Australia, the Faculty Chair, Deputy Chair and ACEM President headed south for a Faculty meeting hosted in Bunbury, while on the other side of the country, North Canberra played hosting duties for the first time since its transition across to Canberra Health Services.

Throughout the year, the ACEM President, President-Elect and Faculty Chairs made it a priority to attend as many in-person Faculty meetings as possible, with The Alfred, Bunbury, Dubbo, Geelong, Gosford, Hervey Bay, Echuca, Launceston, Lismore, North Canberra, Queen Elizabeth (Adelaide), Royal Adelaide, Royal Hobart, Royal Perth, Toowoomba and Townsville EDs hosting meetings on site. These visits were often paired with broader advocacy activities, including meetings with health ministers, giving members the opportunity to raise pressing issues and see them addressed in real time. While access block and workforce issues remained prominent, emerging advocacy issues such as the role of urgent care, the expedited pathway and scope of practice reform were also presented.



*Left to right: Western Australia Faculty Chair Dr Vanessa Clayden, ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley and Western Australia Faculty Deputy Chair Dr Eve Foreman.*

Major campaigns included the Northern Territory, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia elections. The respective Faculty Boards developed advocacy priorities and brought them to the attention of the major parties and the public through targeted engagement campaigns.

Throughout the year, Faculty Chairs met regularly as part of the Faculties Review Working Group, paving the way for a raft of reforms to be implemented after the ACEM 2025 Annual General Meeting.

The group proposed several important changes, which were subsequently endorsed by the ACEM Board. ‘Faculties’ will be renamed ‘Branches’, and ‘Faculty Boards’ will become ‘Branch Councils’, with Aotearoa New Zealand to be formally recognised as a National Branch. Branch membership will be expanded to include Associateship members, acknowledging the breadth of experience and expertise they bring. The Branch Council process will also be simplified to an expression of interest, with expanded membership to encourage greater engagement.

Faculty Boards farewelled and thanked Dr Simone Bartlett, Dr Rebecca Day, Dr Renuvathy Kansan Naider, Dr Natasha McKay, Dr Clare Skinner, Dr Miguel Taliana, Dr Mel Venn, Dr Heidi Wade, Dr Selina Watchorn and Dr Amy Wilson for their work.

A warm welcome was provided to Dr Jason Feng, Dr Sunita Kantavil, Dr Kym Moiler, Dr Joel Przybylko, Dr Tom Redfern, Dr Anne Smith and Dr Myat Win, who all joined Faculty Boards over the course of the past year.





# ACEM Foundation

Dr John Bonning, Committee Chair

ACEM is committed to fostering emergency medicine research, encouraging and supporting Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori doctors in undertaking emergency medicine training and building the capacity of emergency medicine programs in low and middle-income countries.

The ACEM Foundation contributes philanthropically towards three pillars:

- provide opportunities to undertake emergency medicine research endeavours;
- provide opportunities to improve and develop emergency care in low and middle-income countries; and
- encourage and support Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Indigenous doctors to become emergency medicine physicians.

A highlight of the ACEM Foundation’s 2025 calendar was the awarding of the inaugural ACEM Foundation Kelly Research Grant. This grant was made possible through the generous support of ACEM Fellow Professor Anne-Maree Kelly and her partner Mr Colin Yates.

ACEM extends its sincere thanks to our generous donors for their support in 2024–2025. Your commitment has been instrumental in enabling us to deliver meaningful programs and initiatives.

- Professor Anne-Maree Kelly and Mr Colin Yates
- Epstein Family
- Associate Professor Andrew Singer
- Dr Alan Tankel
- Professor Daniel Fatovich
- Swafford Family
- Clinical Associate Professor Matthew Chu

The following ACEM Foundation grants and scholarships were awarded in 2024-2025.

## Emergency Medicine Research

### ACEM Foundation Kelly Research Grant

The ACEM Foundation Kelly Research Grant was established following a generous donation made to the ACEM Foundation by ACEM Fellow Professor Anne-Maree Kelly and her partner Colin Yates. The grant aims to build the capability and capacity of emergency medicine researchers across the health service by supporting innovative, adult-focused clinical research.

2025 **Dr Alana Harper**

### Support for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori Medical Practitioners

#### ACEM Foundation Conference Scholarship

The ACEM Foundation Conference Scholarship supports Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori medical practitioners, medical students and other health professionals to attend the ACEM Winter Symposium or the ACEM Annual Scientific Meeting.

The scholarship provides the recipient with an opportunity for professional development and facilitates leadership development for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori health practitioners.

2024 **Mikayla Budda-Deen**

2024 **Dr Maia Tipene**

### Al Spilman Award for Cultural Safety Initiatives in an Emergency Department

The Al Spilman Award for Cultural Safety Initiatives in an Emergency Department was established in 2018 following a generous donation by Mr Al Spilman. The award highlights the importance of cultural safety to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities. The award recognises a significant step taken towards cultural safety by an emergency department. ACEM acknowledges that cultural safety is a journey of many steps.

2024 **Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service**

2024 **Logan Hospital Emergency Department**

2024 **Perth Children’s Hospital Emergency Department**

2024 **Tauranga Hospital Emergency Department**

### Joseph Epstein Scholarship

The Joseph Epstein Scholarship for Indigenous doctors undertaking training in the FACEM Training Program was established in 2013 by Foundation Fellow Associate Professor Joseph Epstein. The scholarship aims to increase the number of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori specialists in emergency medicine in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

2024 **Dr Brenton Earl**

2025 **Dr Jenna Onley**

### Foundational Emergency Medicine Training Program Grant

Established in 2019, the ACEM Foundational Emergency Medicine Training Program (FEMTP) Grant aims to increase the number of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori medical practitioners undertaking the FEMTP.

2024 **Dr Peter Havell**

## Global Emergency Care

### Chris Curry University of Papua New Guinea Master of Medicine (EM)

The Chris Curry University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine (MMed(EM)) Award is awarded to the highest-scoring MMed (EM) candidate each year.

2024 **Dr David Pomat**

### Mika Ah Kuoi – Fiji Masters of Emergency Medicine

The Mika Ah Kuoi – Fiji Masters of Emergency Medicine Award is awarded to the highest-scoring Masters of Emergency Medicine candidate from Fiji National University.

2024 **Dr Isaac Vijend Singh**

### Global Emergency Care Scholarship

The Global Emergency Care Scholarship supports doctors or other emergency healthcare professionals from low and middle-income countries to attend the ACEM ASM, providing opportunities for professional development, networking and professional recognition.

2024 **Dr Santosh Banstola (Nepal)**

2024 **Dr Salote Behr (Fiji)**

2024 **Dr Fredrick Koha (Papua New Guinea)**

2024 **Dr Suren Perera (Sri Lanka)**

2024 **Dr Posing Posanau (Papua New Guinea)**

2024 **Dr Júlia Rodrigues Quintão (Timor-Leste)**

2024 **Dr Francis Sakita (Tanzania)**

2024 **Dr Sheena Sylvia Sogavare (Solomon Islands)**

2025 **Dr Julia Komey (Uganda)**

2025 **Dr Michael Kuri (Papua New Guinea)**

2025 **Dr Bibek Rajbhandari (Nepal)**

2025 **Sr Wilma Sebby (Papua New Guinea)**

2025 **Dr Manisha Shankar (Fiji)**

2025 **Dr Josefa Tokon (Vanuatu)**

### International Development Grant

The purpose of the grant is to promote the development of emergency care in developing countries through the awarding of grant funds to project/s which aim to accomplish resource development, delivering teaching, training or capacity building, and promoting and enhancing the status of emergency care in developing countries.

2025 **Dr Holly Bannon-Murphy**

2025 **Dr Alana Brunner-Parker**

2025 **Dr Timothy Langford**

2025 **Dr Rob Mitchell**

### ACEM Foundation Sponsorship

The ACEM Foundation proudly sponsors Indigenous conferences and events, and was a key sponsor for Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress (PRIDoC) in December 2024.



# ACEM Honours and Awards

The College Ceremony took place on Sunday 24 November 2024 in Adelaide. The event celebrated the achievements and contributions of ACEM honour recipients who had the opportunity to accept their award in person, together with friends, family and colleagues.

## ACEM Medal

The ACEM Medal is awarded at the discretion of the Board of the College. It is considered the highest award that can be bestowed by ACEM in recognition of distinguished service to the College over a period of time by an ACEM Fellow.

2024 Associate Professor Melinda Truesdale

## ACEM Distinguished Service Award

The ACEM Distinguished Service Award recognises service over a period of time at a level considered significant to contributing to the College delivering its core functions at a high level.

2024 Dr Kate Allan

2024 Dr Mark Hussey

2024 Dr Graham Jay

2025 Dr Rebecca Day

2025 Dr Mark Elcock

2025 Dr Megan Foster

2025 Dr Simon Judkins

2025 Dr Julia Peters

2025 Dr Stephanie Schlueter

2025 Dr Clare Skinner

## ACEM Teaching Excellence Award

The ACEM Teaching Excellence Award recognises Fellows who have given distinguished and extensive service to the College in teaching and learning.

The 2024 ACEM Teaching Excellence Award was posthumously bestowed to Dr Kong Liew.

## Tom Hamilton Oration

The Tom Hamilton Oration is named after the inaugural President of ACEM, Tom Hamilton AM, who was the first Fellow to present the oration in 1990.

2024 Dr Rosanne Skalicky

## ACEM Global Emergency Care Research Award

The award promotes skill-sharing and participatory action research that is driven by the emergency care needs, gaps and priorities of developing countries and is performed in partnership and collaboration with researchers within these countries. The award is made in respect of a published research paper to be most significant in the field of emergency medicine as it relates to Global Emergency Care.

2023 Lead author Dr Megan Cox

Co-authors A/Prof Georgina Phillips, Dr Rob Mitchell, Ms Lisa-Maree Herron, Ms Sarah Körver, Dr Deepak Sharma, Dr Claire E. Brolan, Dr Mangu Kendino, Mr Osea K. Masilaca, Associate Professor Gerard O'Reilly, Dr Penisimani Poloniati and Dr Berlin Kafoa

2024 Lead author Associate Professor Georgina Phillips

Co-authors Dr Mangu Kendino, Dr Claire E. Brolan, Ms Lisa-Maree Herron, Ms Sarah Körver, Dr Silina Motofaga and Dr Megan Cox



Dr Rosanne Skalicky presents *Through the Looking Glass – A journey to Wonderland* for the Tom Hamilton Oration at the 2024 College Ceremony in Adelaide.

## ACEM Wellbeing Award

The ACEM Wellbeing Award celebrates the initiatives of an individual member, group of members or an emergency department that have resulted in the enhancement of wellbeing for emergency department colleagues. The award recognises those who are proactively putting in place a considered strategy to encourage and promote the physical and mental health of emergency department staff.

2024 Individual Dr Daithi De Baróid

2024 Group ED The Sutherland Hospital

2024 Group ED University Hospital Geelong

## Buchanan Prize

The Buchanan Prize is awarded to the highest-scoring candidates in a cohort of the Fellowship Examination (Clinical), the 'OSCE', on their first attempt of the examination.

2024.2 Dr Lidia Samcewicz-Parham

2024.2 Dr James Wayte

2025.1 Dr Joanna Belcher

2025.1 Dr Kathryn Lally

2025.1 Dr Ian Marley

2025.1 Dr Bradley Ryan

2025.1 Dr Alyce Scanlan

2025.1 Dr Melanie Withers

## Joseph Epstein Prize

The Joseph Epstein Prize is awarded to the highest scoring candidate in the Primary Viva Examination.

2024.2 Dr Christian Turton

2024.2 Dr Bright Zhang

2025.1 Dr Jarrod Chakos

2025.1 Dr Samantha Jaco





# New Fellows

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following individuals on their election to Fellowship, listed in order of Fellowship date.

Luisa Stead	Aideen Foley	Steve Gilchrist	Adam Deegan	Liam Stephens	Annie Hebenstreit
Ahmed Hassan Hassan	Mohamed Ahmed Fouad	Elliam Hedges	Maria Walsh	Veronique La Rue-Constantineau	Jackson Carroll
Jedd Hart	Mohamed Nasr	Richie Graham	Mohammad Pavel	John Nagle	Kate Coughlan
William McGuinness	Mohammad Muayad Kasim Kasim	Carly Talbot	John Slaven	Tom Reynolds	Ganaja Samarajiwa
Rhiannon McLaren	Edward Gold	Armaan Mohd Amin	Lorena Zhang	Zhiliang Caleb Lin	Susie St Louis
Abbey Baerlocher	Rene Poncher	Joe Lee	Victoria Connolly	Sajid Chowdhury	Clara Marais
Chris Baker	Elizabeth Ward	Leena Moisander	Roberto Gennari	Laura Gellie	Lauren Byrne
Shannon Hayne	Christopher Nettleship	Thomas Haskell	Giles Flick	Diane Wang	Abiola Olowu
Nidhi Abraham	Benjamin Taylor	Benjamin Kings	Aoife Curran	Tristan Scott	Marco Cengarle
Scott Farenden	Robbie Ley Greaves	Fay Crocker	Donagh MacMahon	De Kent	Oliver Stanbridge
Seb Bayana	Anna Vaulks	Geraint Czech	Adam Rushton	Evan Goh	Lucinda Parsonage
Charlotte Alexander	Anna Mysliborski	Meera Eswaran	Piotr Gawor	Sallyanne Strathdee	Darragh Fitzgerald
Eric Siedenburg	Justin Jin	Sze-chi Freidanck	Kieran Barr	Rachael Nightingale	Lauren Sharp
Joshua Fronek	Karl Caneborg	Ali Finlayson	Roza Nastovska	Sarah Ayles	Melanie McNiff
Cherie Hegarty	Serena Burgess	Natasha Duncan-Sutherland	Malcolm Cooper	Patrick Crooks	Terence Coleman
Hanika Haiart	Daryl Yeak	Samantha Bickerstaff	Georgina Torlot	Gareth Ryan	Michael Jordan
Shazia Quadri	Jason Boyd	Carol Bradbury	Richard Parkin	Matt Brooks	Micky Fiorentino
Prateik Shilkar	Devlyn Corrigan	Stefanie Tran	Andrew Trezise	Jess Thomas	Jake Andrews
Khyarne Biles	Christopher Connolly	Roshetha Bansal	Aaron Thompson	Raphael Dworkin	Alexandra Richards
Danny Marhaba	David Wu	Taran Shergill	Nicola Anita McCreesh	Jeffrey Brown	Ciselle Meier
Skye Roberts	Debbie Suen	Dean Newell	Ivan San	Marwan Galal	Louise Hochholzer
Jack Perry	Ashleigh Bates	Ian Richards	Jessica McKenzie	Catherine Asquith	Min Young Park
Lauren Jones	Sandeepan Mukhopadhyay	David Harris	Emma Carlin	Hazel Leslie	Edward Crawford
Rachel Cooke	Sarah Stewart	Sam Steer	April Trevillion	Femke Verbossche	Ashlea Fox
Brett Dutton	Meg Griffiths	Jeremy Sutherland	Bryony Nicholls	Asha Srirajamadhuveeti	Aziz Easat
Sam Wills	Sami Al Khalaf	Susan Lammi	Cassanne Eccleston	Adam Jajbhay	Rona Zuker Herman
Claire Sewell	Sarah Tyrrell	Luke Bayley	Meghan Beere	Josh Monester	Andrew Patton
Brendan Eager	Jodie Reardon	Mary Good	Emil Ereve	Jaime Butler	Lucy Selleck
Daniel Harrison	Daniel Lazarovits	Laura Plant	Chris Wagner	Megan Mackenzie	Nicholas Webb
Nicole Maitin-Casalis	Joanne Low	Pakeerathan Markandu	Elise Carpenter	Thomas Fuller	Adele Ross
Janet Boromeo		Joseph Cotterill	Made Nicholson		Jennifer Kozlovski



New Fellows con’t

Marina Guertin	Ranjith Kandavelu	Louise Gabauer
Rahul Snelling	Jennifer Sears	Mandy Chahal
Sawani Fernando	Mohamed Gaber	Alyssa Ormond
Joanna West	Laura Feeney	Frances Laycock
Zac Robinson	Abhilash Sangam	Megan Congdon
Istabraq Raashed	Louisa Ng	Connie Smith
Nathan Hunter	Kenneth Chia	Lydia Samy
Eugenie Batterby	Charles Williams	Jason Seebaluck
Oliver Wilson	Nor Edzneeda Mohd Noor	Stuart Burbridge
Dominic McLennan	Xing Hoo	Shaska Khosa-Hulait
Aaron Kok Meng Quay	Zain Zaki	Zac Kesby
Lachlan Rodd	Kate Holleran	Michelle Parsonage
Dean Hearn	Jacqueline Morel	Amanda De Silva
Amal Dass	Samantha Abu Hadid	Russell Stanbrough
Tayla Tatzenko	Andrew Lesnewski	Peta Sparks
James Xavier	Gavithra Dayananda	Alexandru Colibaba
Stephen Hurley	Ophelia Wong	Marvin Siriya
Brian Lesmana	Raj Dhakal	Bradley Ryan
Ritvik Gilhotra	Hana Imamura	Shawn Gielen-Relph
Ciaran Boyle	Marina Williams	Melia Condon
Iweta Geborek	Anna Mouline	James Wayte
Daniel Bundock	Susanna Rossotti	Fergus Hannon
Bronwen Spalding	Pawel Irisik	Millie Bradshaw
Karen Kukurt	Johann De Alwis	Kate Musil
Duncan Havenga	Mohamed Barakat	Lewis Murray
Philip Craven	Anthony Navaretti	Olurotimi Akinola
Mona Liu	Lydia Bregmen	Suhail Wani
Mohamed Irfadh Mohamed Azhar	Caitlin Brabazon	Joel Hodder
Nish Gupta	Martin Webster	Karen Peters
Timothy Goldsmith	Grace Wong	James Sutton
	Jennifer Brady	Jannet Chan

New Fellows con’t

Geetha Plandran	Lidia Samcewicz-Parham	Lachlan McNamara
Jonathan Lee	Stephanie Bedford	Benjamin Devey
Dervla Mclvor	Eanna O Siadhail	Peter Lawrance
Yi Ning Chew	Katherine Cantor	Andrew Peace
Jed Pitt	Scott Honeyfield	Jenny Sze
Ann Kumar	Calan Jones	Daniel Kissane
Ali Mehdizadeh	Andy Hua	Brigid Hall
Allirra Selkirk	James Klaassen	Geoffrey Wu
Melanie Thomas	Hasitha Samarasinghe Gunasekara	Janani Prageshan
Scott Hill	Nicholas Stewart Fern	Kurt Durbridge
Fahad Sorefan	Supun De Silva	Brendon McCarthy
Keri-Anne Murray	Christopher Fox	David Lempert
Alyce Scanlan	David Tran	Josh Mok
David Manterfield	Jamie Thomas	Dayne McGuane
Stephanie Hood		



PEM Graduates

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) Training graduates, listed in order of graduation date.

Caroline Heggie	Jason Fong	Sarah Rathe
Emma Newall	Andy Sharma	Jenna She
Evan O’Neill	Kangho Cho	Nelson Correia
Hollie Casey	Anna Domadius	Anne Gisik
Juanita Rayner	Katherine Franklin	Mohamed Gaber
Sean Tay	Nandini Sami	Johann De Alwis
Jason Wu	Sarah Kolb	Lydia Samy
Wim Ronsmans	Rhodri Davies	Ming-Li Hodder
Johanna Pettersson	Tim Martin	Andrew Wallace
Paul Gilhooly	Mitchell Milanovic	

# FEMTP Graduates

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Foundational Emergency Medicine (FEMTP) graduates, listed in order of graduation date.

Sarah Woodford	Jennifer Barton	Francis Winfield
Hewafonsekege Fonseka	Aravinda Hettiarachchige	Fadi Salloum
Zeeshan Arain	Dona Jayasinghe	Ellena Cotton
Jock McKinnon	Vidana Rathnayake	Koshy Mathew
Keshara Perera	Dunya Wijeweera	Barahi Rimal
Lucy Haynes	Balkrushna Patoliya	Jack Maclean
Tommy McKitterick	Carina Petersen	Danijela Stojkovski
Samuel Preston	Sean Beh	Hollie McBride
Malcolm Braddock	Tanu Tuese	Samuel Quested
Angela Park	Lubna Tesneem	Ranithrie Ariyapperuma
Shanzida Tanni	Maria Razon	Manu Prasad Kaipalli Jayaprasad
Timothy Robinson	Bopeththa Bopeththa	Pirabakar Mahendran
Susmita Barua	Darshika Kankanamge	William Johnson
Sayedra Batool	Timothy Colson	Santini Subramaniam
Elyse Powell	Pawan Jesrani	Jane McDonald
Ryan Wolff	Isabel Munden	Yadana Yadana
Ayesha Naeem	Charlotte Greenslade	Emily Longstaffe
Alison Halstrom	Nolan Fuamatu	Hamish Albany
Jordan Fitz-Gerald	Sebastian Paulo	Kimberley Williams
Sachini Arachchige	Galhenage Perera	Harry Hayes
Hussein Yassin	Zaid Shihab	Damien Cameron
Fariha Javed	Mohamed Fayed	Georgina Poulton
Nathaniel Owen	Vinod Pushpalingam	Minoli De Silva
Elizabeth Rosin	Lauren Brown	Kiran Singh
Maria Greca Dottori	Sana Rana	Juorouwahu Egesi
Daniel Groundwater	Ram Sengar	Tanziha Rizwan
Chirangi Egodage	Zoe Chandler	Minahil Qasim
Yeo Cho	Afifa Ashraf	Niamh McCourt
Jharna Dhingra	Amali Arachchige	Christopher Lim
Weerasekara Seneviratne	Biz Meike	Owen Sulistio
Nicholas Charalambous	Anyia Patel	Liam Smoker
Rebecca Lefevre	Sadiranga Walpita	Samuel Hebblewhite

## FEMTP Graduates con’t

Ehab Shalaby	Kathleen Crook	Ishara Senevirathna
Sarah Brown	Brittany Schlimmer	Hamish Clydesdale
Jack Davies	Michael Critchell	Thomas Russell
Buddhima Kankanige	Win Ei	Bradley Molony
Gabrielle Keating	Bronwyn Jackson	Emily Riby
Adriana Rafael	Iain Baines	Ashley Mathew
Hoi Lim Cheang	Akash Patel	Megan Robertson
Nithin Johny	Keanan Augereau	Thomas Wood
Jennifer Broughton	Tehreem Tahira	Peksha Widanapathirana
Gabriela Ruas dos Santos	Peter Havell	Montana Chugg
Philip Saleh	Elliot Nunn	Harrison Mycroft
Meghann Thompson	Nushrat Jahan	Mohammad Jaunbaccus
Scott Anderson	Conganige Anthony	
Kayathiri Ellankumaran	Abidemi Shabi	
Angela Tan	Nia Jones	
Laura Roden	Sarah Clarke	
Georgina Uttley	Victoria Wood	
Lucy Beighton	Hira Hanif	
Alex Martin	Isam Al-Handola	
Charlotte O’Callaghan	Sabiha Akter	
Genevieve Postlewait	Eloise Williams	
Lavana Balakrishnan	Maurie Visvakumar	
Phanthira Benyadilok	Haresh Abeyasekara	
Bosco Lawrence	Mohamed Elekiaby	
Emma Chaplyn	Peshanka Arachchige	
Maria Araujo	Declan Sela	
Lauren Maisey	Jessica Coolwell	
Joseph Manavalan	Jane Machart	
Mina Melek	Mikala Dales	
Jake Hawkins	Amender Campbell	
Ranjala Weerasinghe	Ewurama Dontoh	
Alexandra Wolf	Emma Barrett	



# IEMTP Graduates

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Intermediate Emergency Medicine (IEMTP) graduates, listed in order of graduation date.

Charles Lavender	Anna Maynard	Marierose Mendoza
Carly Roxburgh	Samuel Clements	Tristan Sames
Pouls Armanious	Frica Renvillia	Revathy Carnagarin
Tracey Landon	Fransisca Agahari	Juliette Kalman
Jessie Johnson Ling	Katherine Maher	Julia Lees
Nicholas Hyett	Alexander Cuthill	Abby Moore
Krishnaramani Thavarasan	Victoria Ho	Megan Bailey
Monica Marton	Caleb Lee	Sarah Jane Hearne
George Hutchinson	Benjamin Taylor	Deanne Ashford
Grace Richardson	Lisa Ting	Brianna Smith
Catherine Porter	Lucy Donnan	Liam Williamson
Rebecca Pike	Karan Puri	Christel Smit-Kroner
Janet Lyall	Kirpal Panacer	Katharine Welsh
Mirali Patel	Sarah Khan	Adrian Sebastian
Thora Kristjansdottir	Heidi Arellano	Brett Goodsall
Robert Woolfenden	Lachlan Shaw	
Nishanthan Paramsothy	Sarah Henderson	

# PHRM Graduates

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine (A(PHRM)) graduates, listed in order of graduation date.

Gabrielle Blanch	David Canner	Christopher Wilder
Melanie Roberts	Alan Fahey	Kris Salaveria
Alex Doig	Joe Greenwood	Rosie Sayers
Steven McElroy	Ian Bricher	Vytas Semogas
John Gallagher	Adam Jajbhay	Millie Bradshaw
Dani McGufficke	Ryan Breslin	Maria-Angela Clifford
Victoria Burrell	John Floridis	Will Ibbotson
Pamela Pillai Velasamy	Ammara Doolabh	Scott Wyvill
Sam Phillips	Keri-Anne Murray	Kerry Holmes
Bethan Jervis	Michelle Boekelaar	Rachael Parker
Gregory Sippel	Amy Lee	Jonathan Storrar
Verity Marsh	Andrew Peace	
Melinda Swan	Ant Allso	

# AEMTP Graduates

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The College congratulates the following Associateship in Advanced Emergency Medicine (AEMTP) graduates, listed in order of graduation date.

Sophie Mackenzie Main	Martin Watson	Aaron MacDonald
Muhammad Atta Ul Musawir	Taha Al Jassim	Robert Osgood
Kelsey Sweeney	Joanna Starkey	Sivanathan Srikanthan
Nathalie Maron	Dania Shihab	Jonathan Leek
Lakmal Nandadewa	Georges Khawam	Luke English
Yaman Mujawaz	Osama Ali	
Adam Whipps	Hasan Sarwar	
Travis Boon	Zaw Paing Soe	
William Macdonald	Ahsan Bokhari	

ACEM would like to acknowledge the passing of members and trainees during the past year and extend its condolences to family members, colleagues and friends.

## Dr Edward Brentnall

(1929 to 2024)



FACEM Dr Edward Brentnall MBE OAM KStJ was a Foundation Fellow of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) and was instrumental in developing the specialty of emergency medicine and in creating a college from EM training.

Dr Brentnall's legacy also includes introducing one of the first triage systems, in what was then referred to as the 'casualty' department at Box Hill Hospital, where he held the position of Director of the Accident and Emergency Department from 1975 until 1994.

'Dr Edward Brentnall was a passionate advocate for those working in emergency medicine and he was a pioneer who paved the way in the field, in many incredible ways,' ACEM President Dr Stephen Gourley said.

'As someone who saw the transition from casualty departments to emergency departments in hospitals firsthand, and as a healthcare sector leader who transformed patient care through the introduction of one of the country's first formal triage systems, Ed leaves a legacy that will never be forgotten.

'We share our deepest condolences to Ed's family and friends, as well as the emergency medicine practitioners, colleagues and ACEM members and staff whose lives he touched.

While we are saddened by his loss, we are grateful for his unwavering commitment to emergency medicine and the significant role he played in the foundation of the College.'

*Author: The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine*

## Dr Katherine Louise Franklin

(1985 to 2024)

Katherine Louise Franklin, or Kat as she was fondly known to our department, was an amazing human being, doctor and friend. From the moment she joined the Northern Emergency Department, we knew she was special.

An exceptional doctor and an extraordinary human being, Kat's presence could be felt in every corner of the department. Fearless, brilliant and fiercely devoted to her patients, she really was a true advocate for those in her care.

Kat brought strength, compassion and humour to even the toughest shifts. Whether in charge of a chaotic night shift, supporting a distressed colleague or teaching with her trademark wit, she inspired courage, calm and joy in those around her.

Her mantra of 'It is what it is', 'We've got this!' and 'Fabulous!' along with that trademark snap of her fingers and toss of her ponytail, are forever etched in the memories of those who have had the pleasure of working with her.

Beyond medicine, Kat's spirit shone through her wicked humour, love of rowing and all things Harry Potter. She would regale us with tales from her travels and endless stories from her remarkable work around the world with the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

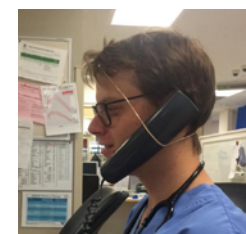
She lived with great courage and integrity, demanding the best from herself and those around her. Kat was and always will be one of us – her light will remain in each of us in everything we do.

Kat, it was our absolute honour and privilege to have been your colleague and your friend. We continue to miss you deeply.

*Author: The Northern Hospital Emergency Department*

## Dr Christopher Haug

(1991 to 2024)



Chris wasn't just smart – he was ridiculously smart. Not the ordinary kind of smart, but the kind where you could ask him anything and he'd not only know the answer but take you on a deep dive that left you thinking in a whole new way. In one study tutorial, a FACEM even called him 'Poindexter' because he just knew everything – and he wore it with a grin. He made being brilliant look effortless and, yet, he was never arrogant about it. Instead, he had this rare way of sharing what he knew that made you feel smarter too.

And then there was his truly one-of-a-kind humour. Quick-witted, sharp and sometimes savage in the best possible way. If you had something to rant about, Chris would find the perfect moment to make fun of you and, in the middle of all the laughter, you'd suddenly see things clearer. His humour wasn't like anyone else's – it was clever and honest, but it also made you feel lighter.

Chris had this energy about him that felt like every day needed to count. A day with him was always busy. In true 'Chris style', he'd take his friends to random places they'd never even heard of for dinner, always chasing something new. He'd introduce them to music they never would have found on their own. He even showed his friends how cool emergency medicine was and, thanks to him, many gave it a go and discovered how much they enjoyed it.

Chris taught us how to say yes to life. How to be curious, how to find the humour in things, and how to try something new just because. Without even realising it, he helped many people just by being who he was. And if there was one thing we'll never forget, it's that everything – even study videos – have to be on 2x speed. That was just him: always sharp, always moving, always making the most of every moment.

Chris was one of a kind – sharp, funny and full of life. We are lucky to have called him our friend. He was someone who showed us how to live with curiosity, humour and heart. Though the world feels quieter without him, we will carry that laughter, that sharp energy and that bond with us always. We will keep chasing new experiences, saying yes to life and watching things on 2x speed – just like he would have wanted.

*Author: ACEM trainee Dr Nirmalie Rupasinghe*





*The ACEM President and Executive Leadership Team take this opportunity to thank the ACEM staff for their exemplary standard of work and continued passion for working to support ACEM's members and trainees.*





**Australasian College for Emergency Medicine**  
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