

Expert Advisory Group on Discrimination - Update

The Expert Advisory Group on Discrimination was formed in February this year. Following initial meetings and calls for submissions, we met early this week to analyse written submissions, hear oral submissions and confirm the additional information we need to fulfil the Terms of Reference, including making recommendations to the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Board.

We thank the people who have been willing to provide information. We note the level of distress detailed in some of the submissions and acknowledge the challenges these individuals have faced professionally and personally. The independent members of the Expert Advisory Group will invite those who made an anonymous submission to meet with them in the coming weeks, independent of the College. The details of the meeting will not be available to any College member of the Expert Advisory Group or College staff. No one making a submission through this mechanism will be identified to the College.

Part of the information that will inform the work of the Group will be the outcomes of the ACEM Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment survey currently being undertaken. We encourage everyone to complete this survey. If you need 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.

There are a number of trends coming through the submissions, which relate to challenges in understanding the revised examination. The Expert Advisory Group will be exploring key themes, including concerns about objectivity in scoring and standard setting, transparency and feedback.

Non-trainee members of the Expert Advisory Group will be observing the upcoming Fellowship OSCE to build a first hand understanding of the Fellowship Examination and the trainee experience. We will be extending an invitation to the Court of Examiners to offer their views on the Fellowship Examination process.

In addition, the Expert Advisory Group is seeking to meet with representatives of the individuals who lodged the original complaint in regard to the 2016.2 Fellowship Clinical Examination.

Over the coming month, the Expert Advisory Group will hear further submissions, conduct further analysis, including a literature review, and meet again at the end of May. The first framing of recommendations for the interim report for the ACEM Board will also be discussed.

We thank those who have contributed so far to this process for their willingness to assist the Expert Advisory Group with our important work.

For more information, please feel free to contact me directly at helens@oxfam.org.au.

Yours sincerely

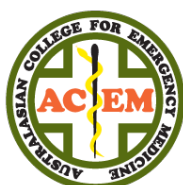
Helen Szoke

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 [ACEM Website](#).

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