

Heathed 16 August survey ~500 GPs

Survey question: What is the main thing that the RACGP needs to address to improve the way that it is perceived by the GP community?

Responses:

Improve advocacy for us GP as a specialty and easy accessibility with their website and e-learning. I registered for a webinar once and it crashed so I never registered on any of their online learnings.

It needs to negotiate with APHRA and the medical board with more assertion. There are many doctors who for some unexplained reasons are not permitted to practice, sometimes for not having followed restrictions to the letter, or 'lack' of 'skill' in the medical field. These would be a sizeable addition to the practising GP community.

Arrange cheaper/ free CPD courses specially for members to reduce membership fees.

Exam fees etc. Advocate for GPs.

I think we need to continue to establish a presence in the media about the role of GPs in chronic and preventative care and quality of care if services are not expected to be bulkbilled. Patients are willing to pay out of pocket for chiropractic and natural therapies but argue the need to pay gap for Medicare rebatable services which currently are no longer adequate to cover ongoing running costs. The government needs to be held accountable for their deflection of responsibilities when saying to see GP for COVID response and care but still don't recognise the increase financial burdens. They also continue to distribute services to pharmacies to provide without the same level of accreditation and regulations as GPs

Need for increasing the number of students getting into medical school

More representation of GPs

It is OK

AVOID ALL POLITICS AND CRUSADES

No discount for maternity leave, sickness leave or mental health leave or study. If you are not earning as much you shouldn't have to pay as much - discriminates against female GPs who may need to work part time and look after kids or aged parents. NO DISCOUNT DURING COVID and yet RACGP makes a huge profit. Big slap in the face to GPs.

To advocate for the well-being of GPs mentally, financially and career development and not just charging them hefty joining fees to provide them with CPD certificates and very poorly

designed, revolting publications that are printed in the tiniest fonts found. Please remember that those who are meant to read those publications spend the best hours of each day.

Working hard, concentrating to solve patients issues with their eyes glued to those screens and would anybody expect them to spend any more time straining their already exhausted eyes and brains to read those unwelcoming, non-humanly printed articles or to sit in front of those screens. Our role as the cornerstone of health care in the country. Unfortunately, accessibility and workforce are related to this and these areas are in dire need. Graduates just do not want to go into general practice.

It needs to lower its membership fee and look like it cares about the GPs who actually see the patients.

Modernise

Improve political lobbying

Reduce cost of membership. Many female practitioners who work part time do not see RACGP membership as affordable

Greater involvement in the rural workforce crisis

That GPs are not just a referral source, we are valuable in health care, and as such, need to be paid a gap.

Welfare of GPs

I HAVE NO IDEA

They need to do more and not worry about perception only.

Need to have meetings in Perth

More advocacy with Medicare

Ensure that GP members' rights are protected

The RACGP representatives are not able to convey the importance of the profession that bridges the gap between community healthcare and tertiary hospital healthcare. GPs have become the invisible warrior, not appreciated, not sexy and not heard by politicians.

Advocacy for the welfare of GPs

It should run regular educations systematically regarding the most current issues, e.g. antivirals, etc. so that everyone is up to date rather than relying on the doctor to search out the topics.

Preventative health as well as advocacy needs to be bolstered. Exercise & diet need to be championed to help our obesity crisis. Education in schools on healthy eating and exercise should be promoted. General practice needs to be supported to prevent a future breakdown as being experienced in the education department.

Value for money, keeping CME points for a thousand dollars?

Apathy. Most people do not know what RACGP is / stands for and what issues they address or care about keep the message simple. I.e. unless GPs get better financed and more joining our ranks, it will be the pharmacist that replaces the GP In 10 years it will be the pharmacist that you see.

Grossly outrageous CPD fees for very little return except a piece of paper at the end of three years. Would be very happy to change to a cheaper CPD home.

Raise the status

Seen as self-serving, money-grabbing , poor advocacy for GPs, kissing backside of Govt.

Has never done anything good for GP in my entire career

Advocate for GP's better.

Education of the community about what GPs do, their critical role as the most important providers of healthcare. The majority of GPs are not government or hospital employees but self-employed contractors with no job security, sick pay, holiday pay, super. The dedication of GPs, the amount of unpaid work we do, how undervalued we are and how general practice is no longer sustainable. Patients need to start paying out of pocket, as many of them do already when they see other doctors. Medicare was never intended to cover costs fully. Very few people cannot pay something to see their GP.

Stop bending to political pressure and positively advocate for general practice.

Continue current methods of support and advice

Fix the crisis of rural doctor shortage

It is too late. They are past there use by date

Better advocacy with government

To be proactive in establishing a new model of GP as a sustainable & respected profession.

This may require a revolutionary change in both the mechanics of service delivery & expectations of the GP in an increasingly complex & dynamic field.

All good

Needs to be on GP side and not be swayed by politics

Needs to support general practitioners. Better represent GPs and stand up for our profession for better remuneration and respect from the public and politicians.

Please ask the Medicare to increase the fee of item 23, item 36 and other item numbers. GP business in crisis now. If nothing will be done to support GP, the primary health system will collapse.

Standing up for GP values

To address the concerns of GP remuneration, the restrictions Medicare puts on GP's in terms of billing including the fear of audit and the draconian PSR

They must stand up against unilateral decision like GP can do ECG but will not be paid for interpreting it? Why and we make decision about next course of Action. If they don't want to pay, then GP should not be allowed to do ECG at all and any patient with chest problem should be sent to hospital and let them deal with them.

Improve GP status remuneration lobby federal government to improve fee structure as compared to what specialist can freely charge patients

Have the guts and teeth to prevent a continuous (witnessed by me since 1980 as a GP) decline and inevitable collapse of family medicine in Australia. 44 years in medicine have been a continuous downslope of the profession.

No consideration for GP care especially during Covid due to increase load of work, high risk of Covid infection (had Covid 2x) with no remuneration due to forced isolation or income protection or Covid leave. GP resignations increase and thus other colleagues to take over 2-3 other's doctor's patients. Telehealth helpful, but scary in not physically examining pt. GP remuneration definitely not kept up with inflation, thus huge stress load for single income parents with children and no family support. Thank you

Make training / professional education easier

RACGP needs to improve the status, collegiality, moral support for GPs as well as remuneration with less red-tape and resume out of city educational events.

Continuing support for hard working GPs

Actively defend the profession on its multitude of fronts - otherwise let's all retire! Use this for RACGP promotion if you dare. The profession would be immeasurably better had the RACGP never existed.

GP remuneration

Encourage professionalism and a sense of belonging to a profession

To be able to stand up for GPs, to be able to have a role in policy making, to be able to truly protect GP's welfare, may be "clinical study" in all aspect of GP land is to be promoted and planed, and the number figure will explain where the problem is.

Overall health (physical; mental; social; financial & spiritual) issues of GPs.

Give more support to improve GP remuneration

I think CPD requirements should be less politically correct. I find the compulsory accredited activities are an exercise in jumping through hoops and I can't see much benefit to medical practice

Better advocacy for good quality GP practice - currently underfunded, overworked, discriminated against and overwhelmed.

More communication, meetings is needed.

Support the GP community when it comes to remuneration. E.g. item numbers for long telephone consults as not all patients have mobile phones and are IT savvy.

Advocating for GPs

Building a quality system research base supporting the value of primary care

Negotiating GP fees.

I don't think the college understand GPS at all, I see no benefit to be a member so stop after the stupid PLAN that I had to do as part of my CPD .

Support GPs more

Support in getting more doctors to work in rural areas and financial support to help them to stay

Needs to address the true value of GP to not only the community but the government as well

Advocacy for the importance of the GP community to the wider community's health in a manner that is free of slogans

Political advocacy has improved greatly since the beginning of COVID