

**AAAPC Strategic Working Group Report for AGM**

Date: July 2020

<b>Strategic group</b>	<i>Policy and Advocacy Working Group</i>
<b>Name of group lead/chair</b>	Prof Grant Russell
<b>Updates:</b>	<p>The Research Policy and Advisory Committee is one of the AAAPC 4 foundation subcommittees.</p> <p>Although it was difficult for the Committee to gain momentum - our prior chair withdrew and it has been difficult to get senior academics meeting regularly enough to generate anything of meaning.</p> <p>This year we have made moves to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively expand the membership to include members earlier in their careers.</li> <li>• Focus the prime role of the committee to that of presenting options for advocating for primary care research externally.</li> <li>• <i>Regarding our terms of reference, change the name to the Policy and Advocacy Working Group</i></li> <li>• Bring the committee (via the chair(s)) into the loop concerning relevant challenges and opportunities with which AAAPC is presented.</li> </ul> <p>The reconstitution of the committee has occurred with 17 members having volunteered. We have met as a whole committee twice and have had subcommittees meeting on a number of occasions.</p> <p>We have achieved our initial objective of increasing the diversity of experience and discipline, with the members crossing clinical and non clinical boundaries. Only one is from New Zealand.</p>

During the year we have reconfirmed our terms of reference. Importantly we formulated a working model where we arrange ourselves into small working groups to address key emerging issues. When the working group's work is done, reports are sent to the broader committee and then the Executive for approval. Additional work involves reviewing the relevant parts of the strategic plan, and reviewing AAAPC policy positions on a range of issues.

**Completed work has been**

- A proposal for a modification of the written criteria for MRFF grant funding. This proposal includes changes to the standard MRFF request for funding to include items that would serve to incentivise proposals that incorporate infrastructure support for practice based research networks. This followed a request from the Government that arose following a discussion between senior members of AAAPC and the Federal Department of Health.
- The documentation of a policy for dealing with requests for a) endorsement from AAAPC and b) distribution of information to our members from external bodies.

**Work in progress is**

- The development of a AAAPC Policy Brief to outline the value of primary care research for health funding bodies and colleagues.
- The articulation of a paper that outlines AAAPC's role in the promotion and support of primary care Practice Based Research Networks. The paper will address:
  - What should AAAPC's position be on a national network of PBRNs in Australia?
  - What can AAAPC do to foster PBRNs in New Zealand?
  - What national linkages would be beneficial in helping AAAPC promote PBRNs?
  - Are there international models that should be considered as Australia and New Zealand build PBRNs?
- The identification of where AAAPC needs to have articulated policy positions on key primary care issues.

I have really appreciated the enthusiasm with which members have approached the work and look forward to next year.

**Members of the committee are:**

Lauren Ball	Griffith University, Queensland
Katelyn Barnes	Australian National University
Bryce Bickley	Griffith University, Queensland
Samantha Chakraborty	Monash University
Sarah Dennis	University of Sydney
Kirsty Douglas	Australian National University
Kyle Eggleton	The University of Auckland
Rebecca Evans	James Cook University
Liz Halcomb	University of Wollongong
Ben Harris-Roxas	University of New South Wales
Lesley Hawes	Monash University
Phyllis Lau	University of Melbourne
Rebecca Levey	Griffith University, Queensland
Kristi Milley	University of Melbourne
Grant Russell	Monash University
Lena Sancic	University of Melbourne
Mari Somerville	Griffith University, Queensland
Michael Wright	Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation   University of Technology Sydney