

Policy Manifesto – a vital tool that needs your input

The College is currently developing a policy manifesto, which will reflect the work the College has developed in recent years through submissions, resources and Council decisions that has members' support, and seeks meaningful general practitioner input. It will provide:

- An advocacy tool to promote the issues affecting general practice.
- A clear policy framework from which to base policy development.
- An opportunity for the College to take a leadership role in some of the key issues affecting the sector. (This is especially important, as the coming year is an election year).
- A useful guide for College representatives on outside working bodies and committees to ensure that they are reflecting the College position.

Your input is essential

Clearly it is essential that as many College members access a copy of the draft and feedback to the Unit on whether:

- Members consider it is an accurate reflection; and
- Members are comfortable with the content, and/or
- Members wish to change or add to the content.

Debate of the key issues needs to occur through members, Faculties, sub faculties and College networks so that a robust platform for advocacy for the College can be developed.

What is the timeframe?

The Unit is currently collating the existing information into a draft that will be considered before Christmas by Executive and Senior Managers.

The draft will be sent to Faculties and interested members after Christmas with a two-month timeframe to get comments to the Unit by 25 February 2001.

Should you wish to comment please contact Cathy Webber at the College office for a copy of the draft. The Unit intends to present the finalised Manifesto to Council when it meets on 8 March 2002.

GP Family Violence Education Project

Interpersonal violence is identified as one of the 13 Health Priority targets for MOH Health Strategies 2001.

The RNZCGP and DSAC are working with Jo Elvidge, Manager, MOH Family Violence Project to assist GPs in identifying and assisting clients affected by family violence. Specifically, currently there is a RNZCGP working party developing practical "toolkit" guidelines for GPs. In addition to this, DSAC will be facilitating a train the trainers day for GPs that are interested in providing CME to other GPs on family violence/partner violence or child abuse. Anybody interested in participating in this 1 day training scheduled for early 2002 should contact DSAC office, Project Co-ordinator, Claire Hurst 09 376 1422.

In 2002, these GP trainers facilitators will be actively seeking opportunities to provide a CME on recognizing and responding to family violence through the RNZCGP and IPA CME Co-ordinators.

Practice Review Activities for locums, part-time GPs and GPs working in Accident and Medical clinics

The College has just released a new resource to assist locums and part-time GPs meet their MOPS Practice Review Activity credit requirements. The resource contains 13 practice review activities designed for GPs who do not have a permanent patient base. If you would like to purchase a copy please contact Lee Sheppard (lee_sheppard@rnzcgp.org.nz) or Jeanette Satterthwaite (jsatterthwaite@rnzcgp.org.nz) at the RNZCGP ph: 04 4965999.



Heavenly creatures?

The history of vocational training for general practice in New Zealand is detailed in a new book by Peter Anyon and Humphrey Rainey, somewhat enigmatically titled *The Amoeba, the Snail and the Octopus*. Though both spoke at the launch of their work, neither gave away the meaning behind the title, further intriguing the more than 40 people present.

‘This book is the history we made today, or at least a pretty recent yesterday,’ said Board of Studies Cahir Dr Ian St George. ‘It is written by two of those who shaped that history. It is a rich, unselfish and rightly unself-conscious account of the people and events that formed the original programme.’



Drs Humphrey Rainey and Peter Anyon admire their work at the launch of “The Amoeba, the Snail and the Octopus”. (photo: Julia Stuart)