



## AMC welcomes constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori membership on its Council

The Australian Medical Council has amended its Constitution to create a designated position for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and a Māori member of the Council.

The AMC is an independent national standards body for medical education and training. It aims to ensure that standards of education, training and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.

After the Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on 30 November 2016, AMC President, Associate Professor Jill Sewell AM, said the AMC had worked hard to develop a visible strategy for engagement with Indigenous stakeholders in setting medical education standards, and assessment of international medical graduates. Central to this process was the AMC's Indigenous Planning Advisory Group which brought together AMC leaders, Indigenous stakeholder organisations, and stakeholders in the AMC accreditation and assessment functions.

*'Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Māori in the AMC's Constitution represents a major step forward in the AMC's commitment to Indigenous Health,'* Associate Professor Sewell said.

As well as membership on Council, the AMC will also welcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori members to each of its standing committees covering basic medical education, specialist training, prevocational training and assessment of international medical graduates.

Through the work of its Indigenous Advisory Group the AMC has developed a statement and a set of principles that articulate why Indigenous Health matters to the AMC, its strategic vision, its broad work in the area of Indigenous Health and the priority areas into the future.

**The AMC's statement on Indigenous Health can be accessed [here](#).**

The Council approved a number of other amendments to its Constitution to ensure AMC processes continue to be relevant, workable and sufficiently flexible to meet practical needs, to focus on the charitable objective of the AMC and to ensure the Constitution remains relevant and appropriate for the business of the AMC including the objects, activities and operations now and into the future.

Amendments to Article 2 (Objects) reflect the wider purpose and range of the activities of the AMC including working internationally with health, accreditation and testing authorities and

agencies to bring about improvement in the AMC's commitment to advancing the quality and delivery of medical education and training of health services in Australia and New Zealand.

Article 4 (membership) has been amended to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member and a Māori member *who is, at the time of their appointment, a ... member on an AMC standing committee, group or panel, appointed by the Directors of the Australian Medical Council.*

Article 8 (Directors) has been amended to increase the term of office for principal office bearers and directors from one year to two years.

Other significant amendments included a change of name for the Board of Examiners (Article 17) to Assessment Committee and the recognition of the Prevocational Standards Accreditation Committee (Article 14) in the Constitution.

These important Constitutional amendments mark the beginning of what will be a busy year for the AMC including involvement in national and international reviews, and managing a large number of accreditation assessments and clinical exams. In addition, the General Meeting of Council in mid-2017 will be held in Darwin with a focus on health and education challenges in regional and remote areas. The Darwin meeting will build on the work of the Council over the last three years to engage with health services, local practitioners, educators and community leaders to share information on current issues in the health and education sectors.

The AMC's Constitution can be found [here](#).

*For any queries please contact Karin Oldfield, Company Secretary on 02 62709722*