



3 January 2006

Accreditation of training of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

The Australian Medical Council has granted accreditation of the training of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, following a review in August-September 2005. The Council has resolved:

- (i) That the AMC grant accreditation of the education and training program and the continuing professional development programs of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists until June 2009.
- (ii) That before the expiry of this period of accreditation (i.e. June 2009), and at a time suitable to the RANZCP, the AMC review the College's progress in relation to the key issues raised in the Accreditation Report with particular reference to implementation of the new Training and Assessment Regulations. The review will be undertaken with a view to extending the period of accreditation to the maximum period of six years.
- (iii) That in the usual annual reports to the Specialist Education Accreditation Committee, the RANZCP comment on its response to the other recommendations in the Accreditation Report. The first annual report should specifically address:
 - a. progress in addressing trainee concerns about the examination eligibility requirements, and access to clinical examination places;
 - b. the College's overarching principles for engagement with trainees;
 - c. the progress in relation to the examination for overseas-trained psychiatrists.

To assess the College's training program, the AMC set up an expert team which reviewed the College's accreditation submission; submissions from bodies such as health departments, health consumer organisations, other health professions that are part of the mental health care team; medical schools and other colleges; and interviewed College committees, doctors who are completing specialist training in psychiatry, and College Fellows who supervise and assess doctors completing the training programs. In addition, the team visited large and small hospitals in urban and rural sites across Australia and New Zealand.

Beginning in 1998, the College has implemented a major review of its training, examinations and continuing education, which resulted in the introduction of new Training and Assessment Regulations on 1 December 2003. When the Team was assessing the College's education and training programs, many issues relating to the transition to the new Regulations were still to be addressed by the College. As well as identifying the strengths of the College's training and professional development programs, the Team's detailed accreditation report identifies areas where further work is required. The detailed accreditation report will be available as a public document in February 2006.

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