



MEDIA RELEASE

Psychiatry training program endorsed

23 December 2009

After a comprehensive review, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) has extended the accreditation of the education and training programs of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to December 2011.

The College provides education and training programs in Australia and New Zealand leading to fellowship of the College as a psychiatrist (FRANZCP). A psychiatrist is a medical practitioner with additional qualifications as a specialist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and emotional problems.

The College's programs were initially reviewed and accredited by the AMC in 2005.

An AMC expert team completed the most recent review of the College in 2009. The review considered comprehensive College documentation, sought submissions from key stakeholders, and conducted site visits and meetings in Australia and New Zealand.

The Executive Summary of the AMC report (available on the AMC website at www.amc.org.au) commends the College's progress in responding to the recommendations of the 2005 assessment, and the ongoing review of its curriculum, assessment processes and continuing professional development program. It also recommends improvements to some College training processes.

The AMC requires accredited colleges to provide annual reports of progress and significant changes. In 2011, the College's annual report will be a comprehensive report, which the AMC will review in detail before deciding whether the College's accreditation should be extended to December 2015, the maximum period of accreditation.

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