

30 March 2026
EXT2026-010

Mr Steffen Faurby
Chief Executive Officer
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Steffen.Faurby@racp.edu.au

Dear Mr Faurby,

Request to exercise enforcement powers

I am writing in response to your letter dated 20 March 2026, outlining the matters currently affecting The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (**the College**).

I am deeply concerned by the issues raised.

Conflict among a charity's Responsible People can place considerable strain on staff and volunteers, undermine governance arrangements, and ultimately affect a charity's ability to fulfil its purpose. The level of conflict you have described is significant. I acknowledge the challenging circumstances this has created for you, Dr Buckmaster, Associate Professor de Zoysa (other people who have been on the Board and its Committees) and the College's staff over the past 18 months, and recognise that on-going media coverage is likely to have made these matters even more stressful. The reputation of the College (particularly its status as a Royal College) has been compromised, noting serious governance concerns dating back to 2019.

I also note the College's engagement with SafeWork NSW (**SafeWork**), as outlined in your letter, and confirm that my office is in contact with SafeWork to ensure any steps considered necessary to safeguard those working at the College are taken.

More broadly, it is clear that the ongoing conflict is not in the best interests of the College and its ability to deliver in accordance with its charitable purposes.

As the national regulator of charities, the ACNC's role includes supporting and sustaining an independent charity sector. The independence of the sector appropriately means the ACNC does not take an active role in mediating or resolving internal disputes, including conflicts at board level. The ACNC's approach to internal disputes is explained in detail in the [Commissioner's Policy Statement](#) available on the ACNC's website.

The powers to suspend or remove Responsible People are among the most serious available to me as Commissioner, and the circumstances in which they can be used are very limited.

While I commend the steps taken to address the governance issues you have outlined, I note that the College's Responsible People are elected by its members in accordance with its Constitution. The members may, by ordinary resolution, remove Responsible People if they do not have confidence in



their ability to effectively steward the College's operations. If any Responsible Person feels unable to continue in their role, they can resign and there are provisions should the Board not have a quorum.

You have previously advised that communication with members about governance matters has been constrained by proceedings before the Fair Work Commission. I note your advice that those proceedings have now been discontinued.

Given this, rather than considering whether it may be possible for me to suspend or remove Responsible People from the College's board, at this time I am of the view that it is more appropriate for the College to engage directly with its members, allowing them to consider the removal of individuals from, or election to, the College's Board based on their judgement of what is in the best interests of the College. Pertinent to my decision is the context that voting for the Board is currently open (due to close on 28 April with your AGM on 29 May), and an EGM is being held on 22 April. Therefore, there are two imminent opportunities for members to consider who they believe is best to govern their organisation.

I confirm that this letter can be made available to all the College's Responsible People (directors) and to the members more broadly, given you have advised the members of the request to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Woodward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sue Woodward AM
Commissioner
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission