

## A Brief History of the Establishment of the RMSANZ

### Formation: RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR A REHABILITATION SOCIETY

In the June 2014 edition of Rhaïa [newsletter of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)] Dr Stephen de Graaff, the AFRM President reiterated the case for the development of a Rehabilitation Society (noted previously by Prof Chris Poulos, in his Presidential column in Rhaïa March 2014:

*“There is a clear desire to continue to promote Rehabilitation Medicine, and in particular, maintain our profile within the community, both from a medical perspective but more importantly from the management of disability and community wellbeing.*

*As part of the College (RACP) we have an excellent basis to provide education for training Rehab Physicians and ongoing professional development but beyond these core educational activities, we face many challenges in providing an environment to promote Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation within the community.*

***The development of a Rehabilitation Medicine Society has been proposed to meet the needs of our craft which include:***

- *organising Annual Scientific Meetings with other craft groups (international, federal and local),*
- *further enhancing Special Interest Groups in specific areas of rehabilitation,*
- *networking at multiple levels including government, other societies and allied health and community groups*
- *and considering other aspects of rehabilitation physician development and education.*

*The establishment of the Rehabilitation Medicine Society is imperative for moving forward to provide us with the opportunity to expand and promote our role within the community.”*

To meet this need a working party of interested AFRM Fellows was formed following the 2014 September ASM of the AFRM to work on the establishment of the Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (RMSANZ).

### Establishment Working Party: THE VISION

The RMSANZ Establishment Working Party initially agreed on a VISION for the new Society. **The RMSANZ will be a membership driven, not for profit organisation which will be formed to:**

- maintain the professional identity of Rehabilitation Physicians;
- advocate for our patients in a way that is flexible and allows us to maintain control;
- preserve and build our external relationships with our allied health and nursing colleagues, with other bodies including governments and in the international rehabilitation arena; and
- promote professional education.

### Establishment Working Party: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The RMSANZ Establishment Working Party then developed some FAQs to assist in the promotion of the new Society.

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### **What will the RMSANZ do?**

#### **The objectives of the Society are:**

- to promote advance the practice of Rehabilitation Medicine;
- to promote and advance the study of Rehabilitation Medicine;
- to foster the highest standards of training, practice, teaching and research in the field of Rehabilitation Medicine;
- to promote, improve, encourage and provide education or training in Rehabilitation Medicine by instituting and conducting courses of study for the benefit of those desiring to increase and improve their knowledge of Rehabilitation Medicine and related disciplines to the highest possible level based on the best available evidence;
- to provide a forum for medical practitioners engaged in the practice of Rehabilitation Medicine and any of its Special Interests and related disciplines for the furtherance of standards of medical care and rehabilitation;
- to liaise with the AFRM and the RACP and other relevant bodies regarding training, certification and recertification programs via a formal Memorandum of Understanding;
- to work collaboratively with the RACP/AFRM and the Council of the RACP and all its Boards and Committees on matters concerning Rehabilitation Medicine;
- to nominate from time to time representatives (to be selected by the RMSANZ Council) to the AFRM and RACP for membership of the Specialist Training Committees or any other committees of AFRM or RACP as deemed appropriate by RMSANZ Council;
- to represent the views of Rehabilitation Physicians to other relevant bodies;
- to maintain ongoing liaison with Federal and State Governments of Australia, the New Zealand Government and other relevant bodies to promote the development of healthcare and disability programs for people with disability;
- to hold meetings for the discussion of clinical, academic, administrative, industrial and political subjects relating to Rehabilitation Medicine and related disciplines;
- to establish Regional Committees, including but not restricted to State and New Zealand Branches and Special Interest Groups of RMSANZ for the benefit of its members and the furtherance of its objects;
- to provide such educational activities RMSANZ thinks fit for its members and for trainees in Rehabilitation Medicine of the AFRM and RACP and hold regular scientific meetings for its members;
- to promote research into medical and related problems of people with disability;
- to provide encouragement and support to advanced trainees during and after their period of training in Rehabilitation Medicine;
- to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

### **Will the AFRM/RACP run the society?**

No. The society is a separate organisation but will work collaboratively with RACP/AFRM on relevant issues. This will be via many links between the RMSANZ and the RACP/AFRM that will be outlined in a memorandum of understanding between the two bodies.

**Who can be a member?**

All AFRM Fellows and Trainees will be eligible to become RMSANZ members. Other registered health professionals may also be eligible for some form of membership such as associate membership.

**How much will membership cost?**

The annual subscription for 2015/16 was \$330 (inclusive of GST) for AFRM Fellows paying before 10 April 2015 and \$385 (inclusive of GST) for AFRM Fellows paying after 10 April 2015.

Trainees will have their annual subscription fee waived for the duration of their training. Once their training is complete they will be required to pay the annual subscription fee as a Fellow.

**What are the benefits of membership?**

As a member you will be eligible for reduced registration fees for national and local events provided by the RMSANZ (including the ASM). You will also have access to the 'Members Only' page of the website.

You will also be able to attend 'Members Only' events.

**Is it tax deductible?**

As a professional body it should qualify for tax deductibility, but you should confirm this with your accountant.

**Do I still have to pay RACP fees?**

Yes. RACP/AFRM Fellowship is separate to RMSANZ membership.

**What happens if I don't join?**

There will no obligation for AFRM fellows or Trainees to join the society. Not joining RMSANZ will not affect the status of your College Fellowship in any way.

The society will be an important body for representing rehabilitation physicians and for conducting educational activities. It will rely on income from memberships and sponsors to function. The more members it has the more effectively it will be able to function.

**How will the society be run?**

The society will be a membership based not for profit organisation limited by guarantee. This is the structure of most not for profit organisations in Australia.

Members will elect a Board of Directors and the President of the RMSANZ. This elected board will then select directors as executive office bearers (i.e. Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer). Expert advice on various matters will be sought by the board. This advice may come from a variety of sources e.g. trainee representatives, state representatives, Special Interest Group (SIG) representatives via committees or advisory councils.