Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons

Statement of Intent
The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) provides the opportunity for advanced dental study, training and qualifications, and continuing professional development. The primary objectives of the RACDS are:

- To advance the science and art of dentistry
- To encourage study and research in the field of dental science and cognate subjects

Part of the RACDS' Vision is: “To enhance oral health in the community.” Presently the College is working to strengthen the engagement and the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and Maori of New Zealand within the College programs including the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery program.

Our Intent:
- Implementing a new governance structure:
  The College has reviewed its governance structure and the changes have been approved by its membership. Commencing in November 2020, the College is introducing a skills-based Board, supported by a larger group that reflects the wider diversity of College membership. This larger group will act as an Advisory Council, and include a representative who is Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Maori.

- Developing future strategy:
  The next College strategic and organisational plans will have a focus on ensuring increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori participation in the College.

- Developing an engagement plan informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori organisations.

- Maintaining relationships with organisations such as Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA), Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME Network), Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, ACODS (The Australasian Council of Dental Schools)

- Facilitating mechanisms for the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and Maori of New Zealand and their representative bodies in the design and delivery of any cultural curriculum development.

- Supporting the recruitment and retention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and Maori of New Zealand to join the College and programs.

- Monitoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and Maori of New Zealand membership within the College.

Stakeholder engagement is a key theme that cuts across the College’s priorities and starts with building College membership and nurturing a wide and meaningful engagement with the communities we represent and demonstrating value. This involves creating mechanisms for regional and international engagement, maintaining relationships in relevant sectors (e.g. government, dental associations, indigenous associations) and developing additional networks to enhance the role of the College. The College recognises that meaningful collaboration and
partnership takes time and will require a phased approached, but is committed to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori participation within the College at many levels.

Values:
The College’s work is guided by our values of:
- Leadership – upholding professional and ethical values
- Patient focus – working with members, Fellows and candidates to optimize patient oral health outcomes
- Excellence – performing to and upholding high standards
- Responsibility – using the resources of College efficiently and prudently

Dr Paul Sambrook – President
Prof Ian Meyers OAM – President Elect
Dr Albert Lee - Honorary Treasurer
Dr Warren Shnider - Censor-In-Chief
Dr Erin Mahoney - Executive Officer
Dr Peter Gregory – Board Member
Dr Hugh Trengrove MNZM – Board Member
A/Prof Peter Duckmanton – Board Member
Prof Laurence Walsh AO – Board Member
Winthrop Prof Marc Tennant - Board Member
Prof Elizabeth Martin AO - Board Member
Dr Susan Wise - Board Member