

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS  
RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
NEW GENERAL PRACTICE FELLOWS 2022-23  
REMARKS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to Government House and to this reception to acknowledge the new Fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional owners of this land, the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

This evening, we welcome the newest Fellows into the RACGP. Your journey has been marked by years of education, specialist training, hard work, and dedication. I understand that your training to become RACGP Fellows overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic. I must say that successful completion of the Fellowship, despite the challenges associated with this, demonstrates great resilience and adaptability and I extend my heartiest congratulations to you all on achieving your Fellowship.

The RACGP plays a significant role in shaping the future of healthcare in both Australia and our State. The College actively advocates for many causes; working to shape policies, improve standards, and to enhance the wellbeing of our communities.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, the RACGP's advocacy efforts extend beyond policy and legislation. The College champions the cause of general practitioners to ensure that their vital role in our healthcare system is recognised and respected. It advocates for appropriate funding, fair remuneration, and supportive work

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.racgp.org.au/advocacy/advocacy-resources>

environments because, as we know, a supported and motivated GP workforce is integral to the health of our nation.

Most notably, the RACGP recently facilitated the ‘GPs in Parliament’ event which contributed to important reforms in Medicare that increase accessibility and affordability of healthcare for patients and take pressure off hospitals.<sup>2</sup> I understand that some of you here participated in this monumental event.<sup>3</sup>

Equally important is the RACGP's emphasis on education and training to ensure that the next generation of healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to deliver the high standard of care we expect from our GPs. I understand that, in addition to the challenges of COVID-19, your cohort transitioned from GP Training Tasmania to RACGP-led training. I am reliably informed that you completed this with good support from the Profession-Led Team, in an unflappable and most professional manner.<sup>4</sup>

Locally, the RACGP Tasmania Faculty, in consultation with community, focuses advocacy efforts on the healthcare challenges that are unique to us such as rural healthcare, and diseases that are more prevalent in our State, while also promoting awareness, healthy lifestyles and preventative measures in patients and the broader community. Importantly, in doing this, Tasmanian general practitioners can lead the way in building a healthier future for Tasmania.

To the new Fellows, again, I extend my congratulations. You are not only now part of a well-respected and prestigious institution, but you also play a very important role in creating a future where the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians is safeguarded. You are part of the cornerstone of Australia's healthcare system, and I urge the existing RACGP members to support you all in your new endeavours.<sup>5</sup>

I look forward to chatting with you all during tonight's reception.

Thank you. David ...

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/building-a-stronger-medicare-budget-2023-24?language=en>

<sup>3</sup> Email Ms. Georgie Dougals-Morse/ADC FLTLT Chatwood 30/10 2023

<sup>4</sup> Email Ms. Georgie Dougals-Morse/ADC FLTLT Chatwood 30/10 2023

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.racgp.org.au/gp-news/media-releases/2022-media-releases-1/november-2022/gps-from-across-australia-descend-on-parliament-ca>